

Business Executives For National Security UPDATE

March 2006

White House Praises Business Force *BENS Partnerships Recognized as Model for Disaster Response*

BENS' innovative Business Forces continue to attract the support of leaders at the highest levels of government. In its report last month on lessons learned from the government response to Hurricane Katrina, the White House cited the BENS program as one of the "important initiatives" underway in the private sector. "Business Force partnerships," the report stated, "have been successful in emergency response planning and using private sector resources and volunteers to fill gaps in preparedness and response capabilities." Noting that business can "often perform certain functions more efficiently and effectively than government" because they use "successful business models," the report called for the private sector to be "an explicit partner in and fully integrated across all levels of response—Federal, State, and local."

As part of BENS' ongoing effort to promote these partnerships, Business Force Senior Vice President Ern Blackwelder testified Feb. 8 at a hearing on domestic preparations for pandemic flu before a House Homeland Committee subcommittee. "Increasingly," he stated, "communities recognize the need to bring the best of business and government together to meet these challenges."

To build on this momentum – and to meet a recent request from Congressional leaders – BENS is forming a task force to identify ways to strengthen the role of business in disaster preparedness and response. Duane Ackerman, chairman and CEO of Bell South will lead the effort. The task force will develop recommendations about when it makes business sense to ask the private sector to respond to disasters, how business and government can best organize in advance, and whether support from Congress is required.

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

Life After BRAC – The current round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) will close or restructure more than 800 military installations and save taxpayers \$36 billion over 20 years. But what about the neighboring communities that depended on these facilities for jobs and revenues? As we have with past base closures, BENS is taking the lead in finding creative ways that communities and the private sector can make smart economic use of former military infrastructure. In partnership with the Association of Defense Communities, BENS will sponsor a policy forum in Washington, D.C. in early June to examine opportunities for the private sector to promote economic revitalization. Watch this space for more details, including forum speakers from the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.

No Joke: "We Really Can Help You!" – The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) not only tracks down narcotics coming into the U.S, it uncovers the finances of narco-traffickers and terrorists. Following a recent meeting with DEA leaders to explore possible avenues of cooperation, BENS quickly connected the agency with currency-exchange experts in the private sector to help DEA more rapidly identify illegal transactions. One agency official joked that BENS' assistance was so fast that, "You're going to take away from us the line of 'We're from the government, and we're here to help you.' Now it will be, 'We're from BENS, and we *really can* help you.'" We hope that our help is the beginning of yet another fruitful BENS-government partnership.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS AND BENS DEVELOPMENTS

New Orleans' "John Wayne" Shows his True Grit – When Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore landed his Black Hawk helicopter in New Orleans last fall to take charge of the federal response to Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans mayor famously dubbed him "the John Wayne dude." When Gen. Honore landed in Atlanta on Feb. 21, BENS members received an update on the largest domestic military mobilization in U.S. history. To ensure better execution of future disaster responses, Honore called on the public and private sectors to work together and conduct realistic disaster response exercises. Even the best plans fail when faced with a catastrophic disaster, he said, and that states must build responses before the point of plan failure. "Don't confuse a plan with execution," Honore said. "A plan is like good

intentions. You don't win with good intentions." Many thanks to Charlie Ginden of Sun Trust Bank and Maj. Gen. Tom Wessels, USA, (Ret.) of Merrill Lynch for organizing this memorable event.

Organizing for "The Long War" – The fight against radical Islamic terrorism will continue well beyond U.S. military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, who addressed BENS members in Washington D.C. on Feb. 22. Gen. Kimmitt, deputy director of planning at U.S. Central Command, discussed the Pentagon's latest strategy assessment, the Quadrennial Defense Review, which last month called on the U.S. government to organize for a "long war" against Islamic extremism. Key to the strategy is building an interagency network within the U.S. government flexible enough to challenge al Qaeda's adaptive nature. "It takes a network to defeat a network," he said. When asked what BENS members can do to help, Kimmitt said if members bolster the resolve of the public, which in turn boosts the morale of the military.

Iraqis are "In this Fight" – For the second time in as many months, Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, who until recently led the U.S. effort to train Iraqi security forces, addressed BENS members on the situation in Iraq. Speaking before the latest wave of violence in Iraq, Gen. Petraeus, told an overflow BENS crowd in New York City on Feb. 3 that there has been "huge progress" in training and equipping more than 200,000 Iraqi soldiers, police and security personnel. The Iraqis are fighting and dying for their country, and they are fighting increasingly well, said Petraeus, now commanding officer at Fort Leavenworth.

Worthy of a Second Act – The Patriot Act, which empowered law enforcement with new authorities after the Sept. 11 attacks, has prevented further acts of terrorism and should be renewed, according to Georgia Senator Johnny Isakson, who addressed BENS members in Atlanta on Feb. 6. Key portions of the act were scheduled to expire late last year, but Congress approved limited extensions, and a longer term renewal is expected to become law next week. Isakson, Georgia's junior senator, also called for comprehensive immigration reform, including additional border patrol personnel and addressing illegal immigration.

Retired, But Not Resting – Gen. Richard Myers may have retired this fall after a distinguished 40-year military career, but the former Air Force general continues to speak out on behalf of the armed forces he led as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Addressing BENS members in his hometown of Kansas City on Feb. 22, Gen. Myers praised the defense department's response to Hurricane Katrina, saying it proved the military's critical role in emergency response. BENS COO Steve Cheney praised Myers for his service to the nation and thanked him for his tireless support of BENS partnerships with the Pentagon.

Upcoming Events

- **San Francisco** – Lunch with **Dan Rice**, Army National Guard captain and BENS member, March 10. Contact Anne Ferris at (650) 967-3676 or aferris@bens.org.
- **New York City** – Lunch with **NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly**, April 6. Contact Bob McClure at (866) 475-2085 or rmclure@bens.org.
- **Atlanta** – Luncheon with **Steven Emerson**, founder, The Investigative Project, April 14. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1268 or ayrlas@bens.org.
- **Washington, D.C.** – A conversation with **David Walker**, Comptroller General for the Government Accountability Office, 3 p.m., April 18, venue to be determined. Contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or sewell@bens.org.
- **San Francisco** – Lunch with **Prof. Abraham Sofaer**, Hoover Institute at Stanford University, April 25. Contact Anne Ferris at (650) 967-3676 or aferris@bens.org.
- **New York City** – Visit to **United States Military Academy at West Point**, April 27. Contact Bob McClure at (866) 475-2085 or rmclure@bens.org.
- **Washington, D.C.** – **Annual Washington Forum**, May 17. Contact Jennie Moonis at (202) 296-2125 or jmoonis@bens.org.
- **Washington, D.C.** – **Eisenhower Award Dinner** honoring former Lockheed Martin Chairman and CEO **Norman Augustine**, May 17. Contact Jennie Moonis at (202) 296-2125 or jmoonis@bens.org.
- **Washington, D.C.** – **BRAC 2005 Forum: Private Sector Role in Implementation**, early June. Contact Paul Taibl at (202) 296-2125 or ptaibl@bens.org.
- **Atlanta** – Visit to **Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base**, Nov. 16. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1268 or ayrlas@bens.org.

Questions or comments? Contact Michael Lucinski at (202) 296-2125 or mlucinski@bens.org