



It's a Peach!

Georgia Business Force "Best Practices Portal" Good to Go

While our nation's intelligence community works to more effectively share information, the BENS Georgia Business Force (GBF) is working to help its state and county security and public health agencies do the same. The GBF "Best Practices Portal" will allow government and business to easily and securely share information and host discussion groups through a highly customizable website, allowing for greater coordination among all participants.

At a kickoff event at the Georgia Office of Homeland Security on April 12th, the "GBF Best Practices Portal Team" – including BENS members and consultants from Deloitte & Touche and Microsoft – gave an overview of "knowledge portal" technology to assembled state security, emergency services, and public health officials. The presentation initiated an extensive discussion on what types of information the group would like to share, including standardized responses for 911 operators and emergency response personnel, lessons learned, and training and exercise schedules. Based on this feedback, the team will spend the next several months designing the software and integrating the information.

Business Force News

NJ Business Force Turns Up the Heat – The BENS New Jersey Business Force (NJBF) is developing an exciting new partnership with the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety (NJDFS) and the Mutual Aid Cooperative – State Industrial Chiefs (MAC-SICS), a coalition of twenty companies (mainly petrochemical) that have a cooperative fire brigade. Through the NJBF *Business Response Network*, MAC-SICS will be making this brigade available to the NJDFS in the event of a large fire or explosion. This partnership was initiated by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, a reflection of the growing trust and potential New Jersey's highest officials see in the Business Force.

Business Eye for the G-8 Guy - At the request of the Office of Domestic Preparedness and Georgia Department of Homeland Security, BENS Georgia Business Force Director Leo Desrosiers and BENS member Shawn Smith, President and CEO of Emergency Visions, provided a private sector perspective at a G-8 Summit tabletop exercise, held at Jekyll Island, Georgia on April 20th. Supported by over 300 officials from federal, state and county agencies charged with providing security for the eight heads of state, the exercise explored scenarios ranging from the bombing of the bridge that leads to the summit site to anthrax in the food supply. BENS will also be present on May 25th, the final exercise before the June 9/10 Summit.

NJ to Hold Open Session – The BENS New Jersey Business Force is holding a special "open session" of its semi-annual Operating Council Meetings on May 10th at Lucent Technologies headquarters in Murray Hill, NJ. It will feature an overview from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on its private sector outreach programs as well as a rundown and projection of New Jersey Business Force activities. To attend, contact Maxine Cannara at 973-740-5434 or mcannara@bens.org.

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

Guiding Intel Through "the Wall" - Spurred by the success of BENS' CIA "Pay for Performance" Panel, the Intelligence Community Management Staff, responsible for coordinating policy changes among the fifteen separate, stove-piped intelligence agencies, has asked for BENS' help in sharpening the focus of their strategic planning and budgeting processes. Over the course of the next year, BENS will host a series of roundtable problem solving sessions to address areas that include future scenario development, performance metrics, and strategic planning.

Professor BENS “Schools” Tomorrow’s CEOs – After “writing the book” on how business can help enhance national security, it only makes sense for BENS to write the entire curriculum. Emeritus BENS board member Michael Sonnenfeldt, Managing Partner, MUUS Management Company, and BENS Vice Chairman Denis Bovin, Vice Chairman of Investment Banking, Bear Stearns & Company, Inc., along with former BENS President and CEO Larry Smith, are teaching a course at the MIT Sloan School of Management titled, “Business and National Security,” a seminar exploring how the art and science of running a business has been altered by the post-September 11th security environment. The course focuses, in part, on how business and government can partner to improve the security of the nation.

BENS Pushes “Good Security on the Cheap” – As House and Senate versions of the Defense Authorization Bill move into their markup sessions, BENS is reminding the nation’s leaders of the importance and value of DoD’s Cooperative Threat Reduction programs, including the Shchuch’ye chemical weapons destruction plant. In early May, BENS sent letters to Armed Services Committee members laying out the BENS case for CTR, which can be found on the BENS website.

Event Highlights and Previews

Franks ‘n BENS? – General Tommy Franks will be presented the BENS Eisenhower Award at our annual Washington Dinner and Forum on Wednesday, June 23rd at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC. As Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command, General Franks led military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq before retiring in June 2003. More information about the dinner and forum will arrive soon in the mail.

Foley Talks Business on Iraq – Speaking to a group of BENS members in New York City on April 14th, Tom Foley, Director of Private Sector Development for the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, outlined several goals that he believes are essential to success in Iraq. Highest on the list are better security, an institutional framework for democracy, private property rights and commercial laws. Citing significant changes in monetary policy, anti-trust laws and a new judicial system, Foley claimed significant progress in those later categories, but admitted that security is still a major problem. Specifically, he spoke of the urgent need to disarm the militias, saying that it would take 15 years at the Coalition’s current rate of progress, and of the incomplete training of the Iraqi police and Army.

Generally Speaking – Before a crowd of 170 business and military leaders at a BENS sponsored luncheon in Kansas City on April 23rd, General Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, offered his personal insight on the current situation in Iraq. While reiterating that United States forces were committed to staying the course, he emphasized that it was critical the coalition maintain the June 30th power handover date. The Iraqi people “must see definite progress toward sovereignty, and must have a firm date to accept responsibility for their country,” he said, adding, “United National involvement is very important to this progress.”

Marine Exercise “Wows” BENS - A small group of BENS members received a first hand look at the flexibility and range of the United States Marine Corps at the Atlantic Capabilities Exercise (CAPEX), held on April 22nd at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. After a morning briefing from Lieutenant General Henry P. (Pete) Osman, Commanding General of the Second Marine Expeditionary Force, the group saw a wide range of exercises, including combined surface hovercraft/air assaults and drills by the Chemical/Biological Incident Response Force. This year’s CAPEX involved the talents of approximately 2000 Marines and sailors.

Upcoming Events

- **May 10, 2004** – BENS New Jersey Business Force Operating Council “Open Session.” See above. Contact Maxine Cannara at 973-740-5434 or mcannara@bens.org.
- **May 18, 2004** – Working session with Joint Forces Command (JFCOM) Joint Experimentation Directorate (J9) to discuss “How Does Business Identify and Rapidly Incorporate Succeeding Generations of New and Emerging Technologies” in Washington, DC. Contact Steve Ewell at 202-296-2125 or sewell@bens.org.
- **June 14, 2004** – The Honorable Tom White, former Army Secretary, in Atlanta. Details soon. Contact Aimee Yrlas at 404-220-1268 or ayrlas@bens.org.
- **June 14, 2004** – Lunch with four-star General Kevin Byrnes, Commander, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, to discuss the Army’s transformation efforts. 12-1:30pm at the Harvard Club in New York City. Contact Serena Savage at 212-685-2311 or ssavage@bens.org.
- **June 23, 2004** – Annual Washington Forum at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC. Contact Jennie Moonis at 202-296-2125 or jmoonis@bens.org
- **June 23, 2004** – Eisenhower Award Dinner honoring General Tommy Franks. See above for details. Contact Jennie Moonis at 202-296-2125 or jmoonis@bens.org.