

Business Executives For National Security UPDATE

MAY 2006

Three Defense Secretaries Will Lead BENS Salute to Augustine

BENS is proud to announce that three former defense secretaries will lead the May 17 Eisenhower Award Dinner honoring defense industry legend and former Lockheed Martin chairman and CEO Norman Augustine. Former Defense Secretaries William Perry, Frank Carlucci and James Schlesinger will pay tribute to Augustine's five decades of public service at the back-tie dinner at the Ritz-Carlton in Washington, DC. Sidney Harman, BENS Vice Chairman and Executive Chairman of Harman International Industries, will serve as the evening's Master of Ceremonies. Former Speaker Newt Gingrich and former UN Ambassador Andrew Young will toast Augustine during the reception.

At the annual BENS Washington Forum earlier that day, BENS members will receive briefings from:

- Sen. Carl Levin (Michigan), ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee;
- Ambassador Nicholas Burns, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs;
- Michael Jackson, Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security; and
- David Ignatius, Washington Post columnist.

Other Forum speakers still to be confirmed include Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (New York).

It's not too late to register. Join us by contacting Jennie Moonis at (202) 296-2125 or jmoonis@bens.org.

[BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security](#)

BENS Joins Unified Quest Against Terrorism – The scenario: terrorists have hidden a nuclear warhead aboard a ship headed for an American port. The challenge: mobilize and coordinate military, government and private sector assets to identify the ship and keep it from entering U.S. waters. That was the mission of the annual Unified Quest war game conducted in Norfolk last month, involving representatives from across the military, federal government and private sector – including Earl Agron, Vice President for Security of the global container transportation company APL, who has been helping with BENS' port security work. "The commercial transportation network is too complicated for one party to tackle on its own," said Agron. "Cooperation, communication and practice among the public sector, and collaboration with the private sector, is vital."

On a Mission – As improvised explosive devices (IEDs) continue to pose the greatest threat to U.S. troops in Iraq, BENS continues to serve as a vital bridge linking the Pentagon anti-IED effort with private sector groups that can help combat these weapons. Most recently, BENS organized and hosted a meeting on April 25 between military officials and Dr. Karl Harris, Director of the Penn State Electro-Optics Center, who shared the center's experience with identifying and adapting commercial technologies for military and government use. BENS will continue offering its business and management expertise as the Pentagon organization charged with defeating these weapons manages a surge in its budget and manpower.

Old Bases, New Jobs – The round of base closures and realignments (BRAC) announced last year is affecting more than 800 defense installations. This time the emphasis is on "realignment," and nearly 200,000 military and civilian positions will be relocated, and large numbers of contractors and private equipment and services providers will follow. Toward that end, BENS is partnering with the Association for Defense Communities (ADC) to help communities find innovative ways to tap under-utilized resources as bases grow through new missions and the influx of troops and contractors. "Enhancing America's Defense Installations through Private Investment," a joint BENS-ADC forum on June 12 in Washington, DC, will offer state and local officials, community and business leaders and Capital Hill staff insights on how to turn BRAC into an economic opportunity.

Event Highlights and BENS Developments

Brief Look at the “Long War” – BENS members traveled to the Marine Corps Combat Development Command at Quantico, Virginia on April 20 for an up-close look at how the Marine Corps is adapting to what defense leaders call “the Long War” against terrorism. After an in-depth briefing by Lt. General James N. Mattis, members hit the training grounds where they fired M-16A4 assault rifles and M203 grenade launchers, rode in AAV-7 assault amphibious vehicles and dined on the finest Marine cuisine (translation: pre-packaged “meals ready to eat”). A farewell reception allowed members to personally thank freshly commissioned lieutenants for their service to the nation.

Tough Choices Ahead – BENS members received a wide-ranging and sobering assessment on the nation’s fiscal challenges during an April 18 briefing from Comptroller General of the United States David Walker. Walker, who also heads the Government Accountability Office, told members that increased spending on defense and entitlement programs, combined with the immediate costs of Hurricane Katrina and the long-term costs of an aging U.S. population, have created an untenable fiscal situation that will require unpalatable political tradeoffs. Citing the need to remain competitive in an increasingly globalized economy, Walker called for strong, sustained leadership in Washington to strengthen the nation’s fiscal condition.

A Helping Hand for Wounded Warriors – Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis J. Harvey briefed BENS members and the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce April 20 on his new plan to transform Army support operations with the celebrated Lean Six Sigma management practices that have made countless U.S. companies more effective and efficient. But Harvey’s most impassioned remarks came during his appeal to the private sector to support the Army’s Wounded Warrior program, which helps rehabilitate severely injured soldiers and return them to their careers as soon as possible. Learn more about how you or your company can help repay our nation’s debt to its servicemen and women at www.aw2.army.mil.

Along the Long Gray Line – Ever wonder what a typical day in the life of a West Point cadet looks like? Fourteen BENS members got a glimpse during a visit to the U.S. Military Academy on April 27. Members received a briefing from Commandant Brig. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti on the academy’s mission of developing “commissioned leaders of character,” joined cadets for lunch in the cavernous mess hall, and attended a series of seminars where they heard from officers recently back from Iraq and Afghanistan. The day-long visit was capped off with the pageantry of a cadet parade and skydiving display. (For the record: the cadets jumped; the BENS members watched.)

BENS Founder Stanley Weiss to Step Down as Chairman in 2007 – Stanley Weiss, who founded BENS in 1982, announced last month that he will step down as Chairman during BENS 25th anniversary year, effective on or before December 31, 2007. In an open [letter](#) to BENS members, Weiss said that by making his intentions known at such an early date, he hoped to give BENS “the opportunity to assess BENS’ strategic priorities and to find a new chairman with the stature, entrepreneurial spirit, tenacity and leadership qualities to help achieve our long term vision.” But he also said, “While my role as Chairman will end, I look forward to remaining a member of the Board and active in BENS for many years to come.”

Upcoming Events

- **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**, May 17. Contact Jennie Moonis at (202) 296-2125 or jmoonis@bens.org.
- **Palo Alto – Event with Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt**, May 23. Contact Anne Ferris at (650) 967-8887 or aferris@bens.org.
- **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** – Event 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.
- **Atlanta** – Visit to **Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base**, Nov. 16. Contact Aimee Yrlas at (404) 220-1268 or ayrlas@bens.org.