

MAY 2007

# UPDATE

25 YEARS  
SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE

Business Executives For National Security

## A Night to Remember

### *DoD to Salute Weiss & BENS for 25 Years of “Distinguished Public Service”*

The special guests have confirmed, the tables will soon be set, and the finishing touches are being made on one of the biggest nights in the history of BENS — our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala May 9 in Washington, DC, celebrating a quarter century of distinctive service.

**Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England** will headline our annual black-tie Eisenhower Dinner by presenting BENS Founder and Chairman Stanley A. Weiss with the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the department’s highest honor for civilians. Weiss, who steps down as chairman the next day, will welcome the new BENS Chairman, Joseph E. Robert, Jr. founder, chairman and CEO of J.E. Robert Companies.

In addition to special tributes throughout the evening, BENS president and CEO Chuck Boyd will recognize service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines in thanks for their service and dedication in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At our 18th Annual Washington Forum earlier that day, BENS members will discuss the most pressing security challenges facing the nation — from Iraq to protecting the homeland to the spread of weapons of mass destruction — with America’s foremost national security and business leaders, including:

- **Gen. John Abizaid**, former Commander, U.S. Central Command;
- **Mike McConnell**, Director of National Intelligence;
- **Stephen Flynn**, homeland security expert and author;
- **Joe Klein**, Time Magazine;
- **Fred Smith**, Chairman, President, and CEO of FedEx;
- Nuclear proliferation experts **Ambassador Robert Gallucci** and **George Perkovich**, with **Jessica Mathews** of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

It’s not too late to RSVP for these signature events, which will be held at the stunning Ronald Reagan Building. To join us, contact Jennie Moonis at (202) 296-2125 or [jmoonis@bens.org](mailto:jmoonis@bens.org).

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### BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

**BENS to Congress: Beef Up the First Line of Defense** – Nearly six years after the September 11 attacks, the U.S. government still could do far more to prevent the gravest threat facing our nation — terrorist attacks on American soil using weapons of mass destruction. BENS **sent that strong message to the House Armed Services Committee** in late April, along with recommendations on how to bolster our first line of defense against such attacks: the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, which has deactivated, destroyed, or secured thousands of Soviet-era nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, keeping them out of terrorists’ hands. Such input from BENS is widely recognized and appreciated — just a few months ago, Sen. Richard Lugar, a program founder, **cited BENS’ authority on this issue in remarks to the Senate**.

## Business Force News

**The Best Thing Since Kleenex** – If avian flu or terrorist smallpox strike the U.S., the citizens of Georgia will be better able to fight them off, thanks to BENS' and the private sector's latest contribution to public health. The BENS Georgia Business Force — in partnership with Emory University, the Georgia Division of Public Health, Tenon Consulting Solutions, and Hands On Atlanta — has formed the Community Continuity Atlanta Partnership, aimed at speeding the distribution of vital medicines from the Strategic National Stockpile in case of disease outbreak or biological attack. Providing volunteers to meet the massive labor needs of a statewide dispensing effort is just one goal of the public-private Partnership, which will test those capabilities in a full-scale exercise in October of this year.

**Staying Healthy By the Bay** – When representatives of 30 Fortune 500 companies showed up in San Francisco on April 20, it was just the latest sign that BENS is the go-to group when government needs the private sector's help. The Bay Area Business Force brought those corporate pillars — including members Cisco Systems, Gilead Sciences, Oracle, PG&E, and Safeway — to the table for an inaugural Bay Area Cross-Sector Pandemic Flu Summit. This first regional effort at public-private collaboration on the issue revealed a number of priorities identified in other BENS work, including the need for businesses to have a direct link to official Emergency Operations Centers and the impact of regulations on effective response. Now, BENS and the Bay Area's public health community are looking to increase their cooperation in the coming months.

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## Event Highlights and BENS Developments

**California Colonel** – BENS is pleased to welcome Kathy Denzer, an Air Force Reserve colonel, as the new director of our Northern California region. A logistics officer at March Air Reserve Base, Kathy has extensive overseas experience with air transportation units and a background in developing disaster plans and exercises. In her civilian life, she most recently worked as a private-sector and nonprofit liaison for FEMA Region IX and was deployed to Jackson, Mississippi for four months in late 2005 to support Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Please join us in welcoming Kathy, who can be reached at [kdenzer@bens.org](mailto:kdenzer@bens.org).

**Iraq: Fighting on the Cheap?** – To Brig. Gen. Mitchell M. Zais, U.S. Army (Ret.), the United States' approach to the Iraq war is to "fight it on the cheap," refuse to mobilize all arms of the federal government, and ask little of Americans not serving in the military. Zais, president of Newberry College, asked an April 9 meeting of Kansas City BENS members why overextended troops not trained in school-building or developing modern banking systems were doing such nation-building jobs instead of the Departments of State, Commerce or Education. He also criticized what he said were larger policies of minimizing troop strength and diverting the savings to high-tech equipment, which he argued is a poor substitute for "boots on the ground" in bringing security to a large country like Iraq.

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## Upcoming Events

- **Dallas – Lunch with Gen. Jim Jones, USMC (Ret.)**, May 15, 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Hotel Crescent Court. Contact Matthew Elias at (214) 315-2576 or [melias@bens.org](mailto:melias@bens.org).
- **Washington, DC – Visit to Marine Corps Combat Development Command**, May 23, Quantico, VA. Contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org).
- **Kansas City – Dinner with Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO)**, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee, May 29, 6:30 p.m., The River Club. Contact William Lawson at (816) 842-1778 or [wlawson@bens.org](mailto:wlawson@bens.org).
- **New Jersey – Private Sector Hurricane Symposium**, Jun. 20, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ. Contact Hank Straub at (609) 777-3999 or [hstraub@bens.org](mailto:hstraub@bens.org).
- **Atlanta – Lunch with Dr. Robert R. Friedman**, Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange, Aug. 14, Four Seasons Hotel. Contact Aimee Yrlas Simpson at (404) 220-1268 or [ayrlassimpson@bens.org](mailto:ayrlassimpson@bens.org).
- **Atlanta – Visit to Robins Air Force Base**, Nov. 8. Contact Aimee Yrlas Simpson at (404) 220-1268 or [ayrlassimpson@bens.org](mailto:ayrlassimpson@bens.org).