

MAY 2008

# UPDATE

Business Executives For National Security

## A Run for Their Money

### *BENS Members Share Advice on Thwarting Terror Financing*

It may not be the root of all evil, but money – specifically, the funds that illicitly finance terrorism – remains the lifeblood of extremist groups like al Qaeda. Shutting down terrorist financiers and their networks thus is a critical mission in protecting our nation, one BENS is uniquely equipped to support.

Most recently, a BENS delegation was front and center April 14-15 at the U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM)'s Global Synchronization Conference in Tampa – a central event focused on coordinating the fight against terrorism. Our participants – 15 representatives from the financial and information-security sectors, including PayPal, Promia, Deloitte Financial Advisory Services, and World Compliance – shared their insights and ideas during a lively half-day session with experts from the military and Defense and Treasury Departments, and were the private-sector voice in a larger two-day forum with these and other government officials.

This successful meeting, which built on BENS' past work with government partners on securing the financial system, is just the latest in a series of ongoing engagements with SOCOM and other unified military commands. For details on how to become involved in follow-on actions, including the next Global Synchronization conference in October, contact Danielle Camner Lindholm at (202) 296-2125 or [dcamner@bens.org](mailto:dcamner@bens.org).

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### Event Highlights and BENS Developments

**BENS “More Important Than Ever”** – The spirit of BENS – business, government, and the military working together to secure America – was on proud display April 8 as BENS Mid-America held its inaugural awards dinner in Kansas City. More than 200 guests, including members of the Mid-America Business Force, listened as former Attorney General John Ashcroft saluted BENS for “defending our most important value – liberty.” Welcomed by a Marine color guard based at Richards-Gebaur Airport and joined by local National Guard and Reserves personnel, veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan were honored for their service. Following official proclamations from Missouri, Kansas, [the U.S. House of Representatives](#), and [the U.S. Senate](#) – which declared that “BENS proves more important than ever” – BENS Mid-America presented the first Stanley A. Weiss National Security Award to...Stanley Weiss, for a quarter-century of stewardship as our founder. Special thanks to Vice Chairman Landon Rowland for organizing and hosting this very successful event.

**Slow Out of the Gates?** – Still haven't RSVP'd to our May 15 Eisenhower Award Dinner honoring Defense Secretary Robert Gates? Well, there's still time. Seats are going fast for both the evening gala at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington and our annual Forum that day with some of the nation's top military and civilian thinkers, so contact Jennie Moonis at (202) 296-2125 or [jmoonis@bens.org](mailto:jmoonis@bens.org).

**No Shock, All Awe** – It could have been the sight of elite Army Rangers rappelling from a hovering Black Hawk helicopter into a “hot” landing zone. Or the intensity of hand-to-hand combat demonstrations. Or the thrill of driving a Bradley Fighting Vehicle (simulator). But for 15 BENS members and guests who visited Georgia’s Ft. Benning April 4, the day’s most memorable experience was probably the chance to sit down for lunch with a company of young soldiers in their third week of basic training. For a closer look at the visit, which left our members with a renewed appreciation for the patriotism and sacrifices of troops in uniform, go to <http://www.bens.org/atlanta-trips.html>.

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## Business Force and Regional Partnership News

**Denver: Ready for Anything** – Party insiders aren’t the only ones hoping August’s Democratic National Convention has less fireworks than the primaries leading up to it. Still, civic leaders in the host city of Denver – with the help of the BENS-facilitated Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership – are preparing for every contingency. Only a few months old, the partnership will be co-sponsoring a major summit May 12-13 – along with Governor Bill Ritter and Mayor John Hickenlooper – to identify and develop “meta” leaders who can reach across and beyond organizational boundaries to respond to emergencies. For more information about the Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness – a national initiative of the Centers for Disease Control, Harvard University, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – contact Pam Pfeifer at (303) 607-4731 or [ppfeifer@bens.org](mailto:ppfeifer@bens.org).

**A Bountiful Harvest** – Iowa has a new bumper crop, but unlike corn, this latest harvest is producing yields year-round. We’re talking, of course, about member organizations of the Safeguard Iowa Partnership, whose rolls have grown from 21 – when the group launched in early 2007 – to 66 and counting, with more joining every day in a self-recruiting, self-sustaining process driven by intense member interest. To further seed the ground, the Partnership will hold three workshops on public-private emergency coordination in June 2008, meant to demonstrate successful cooperation models for local, regional, and statewide governments. For more information, contact Jami Haberl at (515) 281-2973 or [jhaberl@bens.org](mailto:jhaberl@bens.org).

**Forecast: Change is In the Air** – While the weather in Los Angeles is almost always sunny, April brought the winds of change to the Homeland Security Advisory Council/LA Business Force. First, we are pleased to announce the selection of Lauren Armistead as HSAC’s new executive director, following two impressive years as deputy director. Second, HSAC’s website has enjoyed the cyber-equivalent of a facelift, with a fresh look and easy access for visitors. Contact Lauren at [larmistead@hsac.bens.org](mailto:larmistead@hsac.bens.org) or visit the new site at <http://www.hsac.bens.org>.

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## Upcoming Events

- **Atlanta – BENS/USO Volunteer Days** – Welcome Home the Troops at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, May 7, 7:30 a.m. Contact Allison Cheatham at (404) 220-1268 or [acheatham@bens.org](mailto:acheatham@bens.org).
- **Washington, DC – BENS Eisenhower Award Dinner honoring Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and 19th Annual BENS Washington Forum**, May 15, JW Marriott Hotel Pennsylvania Avenue. Contact Jennie Moonis at (202) 296-2125 or [jmoonis@bens.org](mailto:jmoonis@bens.org).
- **San Francisco – Dinner with Col. Peter Mansoor**, executive officer to Gen. David Petraeus, May 27, Palo Alto. Contact Kathy Denzer at (415) 690-6254 or [kdenzer@bens.org](mailto:kdenzer@bens.org).
- **Dallas – Lunch with former Rep. Charlie Wilson**, subject of the book and movie *Charlie Wilson’s War*, Jun. 16. Contact Matthew Elias at (214) 315-2576 or [melias@bens.org](mailto:melias@bens.org).
- **Atlanta – Lunch with Gen. Charles Campbell**, Commander, U.S. Army Forces Command, Jun. 24, 11:30 a.m.-1:30p.m. Contact Allison Cheatham at (404) 220-1268 or [acheatham@bens.org](mailto:acheatham@bens.org).
- **Kansas City – Dinner with Rep. Ike Skelton**, Jul. 1, 6:30p.m., The River Club. Contact William Lawson at (816) 842-1778 or [wlawson@bens.org](mailto:wlawson@bens.org).