

MAY 2009

UPDATE

Business Executives For National Security

Energizing National Security

Washington Forum and Awards Dinner Only Days Away

How can the U.S.—and our military—reduce its dependence on foreign oil? How can the U.S.—with government and industry leadership—become a global pioneer in clean, renewable technologies?

For the answers to one of the most pressing security challenges of our time—America's energy security—join us May 13 for our annual BENS Forum in Washington, D.C. when you'll have the opportunity to hear directly from, and speak candidly with, senior U.S. officials and top industry experts, including:

- National Security Adviser **Gen. James Jones**
- Deputy Secretary of Defense **William Lynn**
- Former CIA Director **Gen. Michael Hayden**
- Former Deputy Secretary of Energy **Lynn Coleman**
- FedEx CEO **Fred Smith**
- Gallup CEO **James Clifton**
- RFC Energy Chairman **Robin West**

That evening, you won't want to miss our black-tie Eisenhower Award Dinner at the Ritz-Carlton as we recognize two of America's top national security luminaries: **Sen. Carl Levin** and former **Sen. John Warner**. To help us honor these two models of bipartisan leadership, we'll be joined by Washington Post columnist and Pulitzer Prize-winner **David Broder**, who will serve as keynote speaker, and former presidential speechwriter, best-selling author and Wall Street Journal columnist **Peggy Noonan**, who will serve as emcee.

Invitations for these events were mailed last month. To RSVP, please contact Jennie Moonis at 202-296-2125 or jmoonis@bens.org

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

Tackling Terror Finance — Every day around the world, terrorists are moving money that funds suicide bombers and cells of extremists plotting the next attack. In Tampa, Fla., on April 20-21, BENS members helped military and intelligence officials learn how to stop them. Attending their fourth straight Counter Threat Finance Working Group at U.S. Special Operations Command's Global Synchronization Conference, 16 BENS members – including many with Middle Eastern finance experience – advised military, FBI, DEA and Scotland Yard leaders on how to combat terrorist finance networks, with a focus on how illicit "business" enterprises sustain terror activities. Members also participated in a working group on global conflicts and potential long-term hotspots, and many were invited to return before the next conference in October to address additional Special Operations Command teams.

Regional Partnership News

Swine Flu: BENS Responds Locally to Global Problem — With H1N1 flu spreading across the globe, BENS partnerships are at the forefront of helping local communities stay informed. In California, where a number of swine flu cases are confirmed, our Bay Area partnership has set up an online discussion forum for partner businesses to exchange information, with links to CDC, state and county health emergency websites. Meanwhile, the BENS Georgia Business Force is helping businesses prepare for a pandemic and stay abreast of new developments.

Georgia: Fighting Floods — It was a tough way to end a five-year drought: downpours, hail, high winds and flooding. That was the scene across much of Georgia and the South in late March and early April, as a string of severe storms cut power to thousands, damaged homes and flooded roadways. But once again, the BENS Georgia Business Force stepped in to help with response efforts. For 10 days, the GBF manned the state's Business Operations Center and helped the Georgia Emergency Management Agency respond to material and service requests, including road closure signs, and communicated road closure information to businesses.

California: Preparing for 'The Big One' — When Southern California is hit by 'the big one' — the next devastating earthquake for which scientists say the region is long overdue — businesses will be ready to respond, thanks to BENS' Homeland Security Advisory Council. State and local emergency management leaders and 14 area companies, including Walt Disney, attended an April 6 exercise hosted by HSAC in which a 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck near downtown Los Angeles. The exercise tested companies' business continuity plans and helped define the roles of the public and private sectors in the event of a catastrophic earthquake. HSAC is now working with companies that attended to include them in future real-life disaster response efforts.

Event Highlights and BENS Developments

Skelton: BENS Works "For the Good of the Country" — It's what sets BENS apart from every other organization: using business know-how to enhance America's security. That was the message from U.S. Rep. Ike Skelton, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee on April 14 when he was awarded BENS-Kansas City's 2nd Annual Stanley A. Weiss National Security Award. Skelton urged the audience of 240 to support the troops with their unique expertise: "So many of you have executive knowledge that can be transferred for the good of the country."

Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today — BENS is helping the next generation of policymakers better understand the growing cyber threat to America's security. On March 27, BENS Bay Area hosted a forum in San Francisco on cyber security for the Pacific Forum, the Asia-Pacific arm of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a foreign policy research group. BENS members John Mullen and Hugh McDermott spoke to 18 members of the forum's Young Leaders Fellowship Program on cyber security risks and requirements for the energy, finance and IT sectors. The program is designed to train young Asian and American professionals in international policy.

BENS: An "Exceptional Feat" — Once again, BENS has received top honors for one of our top priorities: managing our resources wisely. In late March, BENS was awarded a four-star rating for effective financial management from Charity Navigator, a leading evaluator of non-profit organizations. In a message to BENS, the organization noted that our second consecutive four-star rating is "an exceptional feat, especially given the economic challenges many charities have had to face in the last year." To view more information about our rating, visit

www.charitynavigator.org

Upcoming Events

- **Dallas** – Joint Strike Fighter (JSF/F-35) Aircraft Briefing and Facilities Tour, May 8, Lockheed Aeronautical Corporation, Fort Worth. Contact Matthew Elias at 214-315-2576 or melias@bens.org
- **Los Angeles** – The Threat of Cyber Espionage to American Businesses, Dr. Joel Brenner, National Counterintelligence Executive for the Director of National Intelligence, May 7, 7-9 a.m., 1st Century Bank (Century City). Contact Tracy Hughes at thughes@hsac.bens.org
- **Washington DC** – Breakfast discussion with RADM W. Craig Vanderwagen, M.D., Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, May 5, 8:30 a.m., Phoenix Park Hotel. Contact Steve Ewell at sewell@bens.org