

NOVEMBER 2008

# UPDATE

Business Executives For National Security

## We “Could Save Lives”

### *BENS Launches Defense Acquisition Reform Task Force*

With nearly 100 major weapons systems behind schedule and nearly \$300 billion over budget, the Pentagon’s Byzantine acquisition system holds huge opportunities for reform and cost savings. In keeping with our founding mission of spending defense dollars smarter, BENS last month launched a first-of-its-kind task force to assess the entire defense acquisition system.

“We have the opportunity to make a difference,” said BENS member and former Lockheed Martin chief Norm Augustine in Washington, DC, Oct. 28 as he launched the BENS Task Force on Acquisition Law and Oversight, which he chairs. “This task is not one that wins headlines, but it could save lives,” he said of the group, which will review the accumulated web of law, regulations and policies that often result in new weapons being obsolete before they leave the drawing board.

With vice chairmen former senators Gary Hart and Warren Rudman, the 27-member task force includes BENS members, former industry executives, and former civilian defense officials and military leaders. In addition, a group of 12 subject matter experts is contributing to the effort. Members will divide into three focus groups to study requirements determination, workforce issues and cost and schedule issues.

The task force has an ambitious goal—completing much of its work in about 90 days in order to offer concrete proposals to the next Congress and new administration. Noting the nation’s current economic challenges, Gen. Chuck Boyd, USAF (Ret.), president and CEO of BENS, said, “We are approaching perfect-storm conditions that will require serious attention to the acquisition process.” Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Rep. Ike Skelton, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England have all indicated they look forward to reviewing the group’s recommendations.

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## **BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security**

**Bankrolling Terror** — As technology makes banking more convenient for customers, new products can also be subverted by criminals and terrorists to bankroll their operations or undermine the financial system. In October, some of these methods—and how to counter them—were highlighted by a 16-person BENS delegation at U.S. Special Operations Command’s (SOCOM) semi-annual Global Synchronization Conference. BENS members and guests joined the Threat Finance Working Group for two days of discussion and gave presentations on the growing avenues to launder and hide money, including the use of pre-paid cards, virtual worlds, and cutting-edge mobile banking technology. Participants will join SOCOM’s Threat Finance Chief for a debrief call on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 11 a.m. To listen, please contact Danielle Lindholm at [dlindholm@bens.org](mailto:dlindholm@bens.org)

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## Regional Partnership News

**“Exactly What California Needs”** — Businesses across California are now on call 24/7 to help with disaster relief efforts. On Oct. 3, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a memorandum of understanding detailing how regional partnerships—such as the BENS Bay Area Business Force and the Los Angeles area Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC)—will work with state officials during natural or man-made disasters. The governor also used the signing ceremony in San Diego to recognize BENS and HSAC for their critical support during last fall’s Southern California wildfires. “We have the world’s best firefighters, police and first responders, but we all know government cannot do it all—making these kinds of public-private partnerships exactly what California needs,” Schwarzenegger said. The agreement provides 24-hour on-call access to private sector emergency management professionals, who will also staff a soon-to-be-created Business Operations Center during disasters.



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## Event Highlights and BENS Developments

**“Power Must Be Synchronized”** — U.S. efforts to rebuild and stabilize Iraq must include the American private sector, Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell, commander of the Army’s Combined Arms Center, told 55 BENS members, government officials and business leaders at an Oct. 2 dinner in Kansas City. Caldwell urged BENS to encourage government departments such as State, Treasury and Commerce, as well as organizations outside government, to come together and create joint initiatives. “All elements of national power must be synchronized so we can learn from the lessons over the past seven years,” Caldwell said. “Military power alone cannot be successful.”

**Security by the Sea** — Energy and port security are two critical national security issues, and BENS members got a taste of both last month with tours of the Savannah Port and the liquid natural gas import terminal on nearby Elba Island in Georgia. Fifteen BENS members were briefed Oct. 17 on port security measures and homeland security threats by officials from the Coast Guard and the Georgia Ports Authority Protective Services. Going forward, BENS plans to work with both the state and Coast Guard to explore ways that the business community can improve security.

**In the Wake of War** — Just two months after this summer’s war between Russia and the Republic of Georgia, a BENS delegation traveled to the region to assess the still-fragile security and political landscape. Guided by Vice Adm. Richard Gallagher, Deputy Commander of the U.S. military’s European Command, the 10-member delegation met with political and military leaders in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, followed by meetings in Ukraine. The delegation’s observations—and their talks with the presidents of Georgia and Azerbaijan—will be discussed in a conference call in the coming weeks. For more information, contact Reggie Gibbs at (202) 296-2125, ext. 1136 or [rgibbs@bens.org](mailto:rgibbs@bens.org)

**“Leadership of the Business Community”** — It’s not every day that BENS shares the stage with the likes of former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George Schultz, former Secretary of Defense William Perry, former Senator Sam Nunn and Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency. But that’s just what happened in New York City Oct. 23, when the prestigious EastWest Institute honored these leaders—and BENS—for their efforts to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. In accepting the Corporate Leadership Award for “leadership of the business community to improve national security and international security,” BENS Chairman Joe Robert, Jr. said, “this award belongs to all the members of BENS, and I accept it on their behalf.”

Questions or comments? Contact Cliff Ainsworth at (202) 296-2125 or [cainsworth@bens.org](mailto:cainsworth@bens.org)

**On Deck: BENS Honor for Petraeus** — Tickets are going fast, but seats are still available for what's sure to be an unforgettable night: the Nov. 19 BENS Eisenhower Award Dinner honoring Gen. David Petraeus aboard the historic aircraft carrier *Intrepid*, docked along the Hudson River in New York City. The evening will be a special opportunity for BENS members and guests to hear directly from Gen. Petraeus, the former U.S. commander in Iraq, as he assumes leadership of U.S. Central Command, responsible for military operations across the Middle East, including Iraq and Afghanistan. If you haven't received your invitation or need more information, contact Jennie Moonis at 202-296-2125 or [jmoonis@bens.org](mailto:jmoonis@bens.org)

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## Upcoming Events

- **Dallas** – Lunch with Nate Self, Principal at the Praevius Group and author of *Two Wars*, Dec. 9. Contact Matthew Elias at 214-315-2576 or [melias@bens.org](mailto:melias@bens.org)
- **Iowa** – Business Continuity Course, Nov. 4, Sioux City; Nov. 5, Cedar Falls; Nov. 6, Cedar Rapids. To register, contact Liz Manion at 515-382-7229 or [mmanion@storycounty.com](mailto:mmanion@storycounty.com) or register online at <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>
- **New Jersey** – The Intelligence Bureau, New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness presentation on possible security threats to the NY-NJ Metropolitan Region, Nov. 12, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at PSE&G, 80 Park Plaza, Newark, NJ. RSVP to Henry Straub at [hstraub@bens.org](mailto:hstraub@bens.org) or call 609-577-5373 by noon on Nov. 10.
- **New York** – Eisenhower Award dinner IHO Gen. David Petraeus, Nov. 19, The Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, Pier 86, 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 46<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City. See above for details.
- **New York** – The Growing Threat of Foreign Commercial Espionage, Dr. Joel Brenner, The National Counterintelligence Executive, Dec. 5, noon, Hotel Plaza Athenee, 37 East 64th Street. Contact Kirk Oberfeld at 646-379-2548 or [koberfeld@bens.org](mailto:koberfeld@bens.org)
- **Southeast** – Member-Government Partner Appreciation, Nov. 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Dante's Down the Hatch. Contact Allison Cheatham at 404-220-1135 or [acheatham@bens.org](mailto:acheatham@bens.org)
- **Washington DC** – The BENS Annual Holiday Open House, Dec. 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m., BENS DC Office, 1717 Pennsylvania Avenue, Ste 350. Contact Lisa Jackson at 202-296-2125, ext. 1111, or [ljackson@bens.org](mailto:ljackson@bens.org)
- **Washington DC** – Lunch with Melissa Hathaway, Cyber Coordination Executive for the Director of National Security, Nov. 10, Tyson's Corner, location TBD. Contact Steve Ewell at 202-296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org)
- **Washington DC** – Lunch with Kelly Wilson, Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center, Nov. 13, noon, BENS DC Office, 1717 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Ste 350. Contact Steve Ewell at 202-296-2125 or [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org)