

OCTOBER 2008

UPDATE

Business Executives For National Security

“One of Our Nation’s Great Battle Captains”

Gen. David Petraeus to be Honored Aboard the Intrepid

He’s been called “a brilliant strategist and tactician,” one of America’s “most innovative military intellectuals” and—by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates—“one of our nation’s great battle captains.” As of November 19, General David Petraeus—the architect of the military “surge” and counterinsurgency strategy credited with dramatically improving security in Iraq—will also be called something else: recipient of the BENS Eisenhower Award.

Petraeus, who until September led coalition forces in Iraq and who later this month will assume command of U.S Central Command—responsible for U.S. military operations across the Middle East, including Iraq and Afghanistan—will be honored as a consummate scholar-soldier. A 1974 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he earned a PhD in international relations from Princeton University.

Sidney Harman, Chairman Emeritus, Harman International Industries and a BENS Vice Chairman, will serve as the black-tie gala’s master of ceremonies aboard the historic and newly restored World War II aircraft carrier Intrepid, at New York City’s Pier 86.

Invitations to the Nov. 19 dinner are in the mail. For more information, contact Jennie Moonis at (202) 296-2125 or jmoonis@bens.org.

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

Under the Microscope: Defense Procurement — With an annual budget of nearly \$150 billion and 95 major defense programs nearly \$300 billion over budget—and, on average, 21 months late—the Pentagon’s massive acquisition system is ripe for reform. So on October 28, BENS will launch a first-of-its-kind task force with a one-of-a-kind mission: review decades of accumulated laws, regulations and policies that stymie the process and stifle innovation and recommend comprehensive reforms. About two dozen BENS members will be involved. Chaired by BENS member and former Lockheed-Martin Chairman Norm Augustine—with former senators Gary Hart and Warren Rudman as vice chairs—the task force plans to complete the bulk of its work over three months so that the next Congress and administration can ensure an efficient, effective defense acquisition system worthy of the military men and women it’s supposed to support.

Regional Partnership News

California: Doing Good Gets Easier — For civic-minded companies across California eager to help in an emergency—like last year’s devastating fires—volunteering just got a whole lot easier. As part of legislation to improve the state’s disaster response capabilities signed into law by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Sept. 27, California becomes the latest state to pass a reform championed by BENS: extending so-called “Good Samaritan” protections to businesses and non-profits so that fears of legal liability don’t discourage them from donating goods and support during disasters. Congratulations to BENS Bay Area Business Force and the Los Angeles area Homeland Security Advisory Council for all their work advocating for the legislation, crafting compromise language to ensure its passage and

moving to the next step: working with state officials to create a registry of companies ready to volunteer in an emergency.

Event Highlights and BENS Developments

"Government Alone" Can't Defend Against Terrorism — Terrorist networks and their tactics are increasingly sophisticated and defending the nation against them is "an important enough enterprise that we can't leave to government alone." That was the message that former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft delivered to more than 100 business leaders gathered for a BENS-supported corporate antiterrorism conference in Kansas City September 19. Officials from the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Reserve Bank and federal law enforcement agencies briefed attendees about ways they could better protect their businesses from either being harmed or used by terrorists to further their plans. Noting that homeland security must be a "collaborative mission" between the public and private sectors, BENS Vice Chairman Landon Rowland used a panel session to highlight steps local businesses have taken, including Sprint Nextel's work to improve emergency communications across the local, state and federal levels.

Iraqi Update: "Rebuilding the House" — As Defense Secretary Robert Gates said recently of the mission in Iraq, "The U.S. military's ability to kick down the door must be matched by our ability to clean up the mess and even rebuild the house afterward." On Oct. 8, the Pentagon official tasked with helping to put Iraq's economic house in order—Paul Brinkley—will offer BENS members an exclusive update on his work, including an overview of business opportunities in the oil-rich country. Register and get dial-in information for this 12:30 Eastern Time conference call online at <http://www.bens.org/news/upcoming-events/event-registration.html> or by contacting Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125, or sewell@bens.org.

Upcoming Events

Kansas City – BENS Corporate Appreciation, Chief's Football, December 14, noon, Arrowhead Stadium. Contact Bill Lawson at (816) 842-1778 or wlawson@bens.org

New York – Eisenhower Award dinner IHO Gen. David Petraeus, Nov. 19, The Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, Pier 86, 12th Avenue at 46th Street, New York City. See above for details.

New York – The Growing Threat of Foreign Commercial Espionage, Dr. Joel Brenner, The National Counterintelligence Executive (Office of the Director of National Intelligence), December 5 at time and location TBD. Contact Kirk Oberfeld at (646) 379-2548 or koberfeld@bens.org

San Francisco – Dinner with David Walker, Former U.S. Comptroller General, and President and CEO, Peter G. Peterson Foundation, October 16, 5:45 pm-7:45 p.m. at Marine Memorial Club, 609 Sutter Street, SF CA. Contact Kathy Denzer at kdenzer@bens.org

San Francisco – Lunch with General Bantz Craddock, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, November 12, 11:45-1:45pm at Exponent Inc., 149 Commonwealth Drive, Menlo Park. Contact Kathy Denzer at kdenzer@bens.org for more information

Southeast – Visit to the Port of Savannah, Georgia, October 17. Contact Allison Cheatham at (404) 220-1135 or acheatham@bens.org

Southeast – Member-Government Partner Appreciation, November 5, 5:30, Dante's Down the Hatch. Contact Allison Cheatham at (404) 220-1135 or acheatham@bens.org

Washington DC – Conference call with Paul Brinkley, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Business Transformation, Business environment and opportunities in Iraq. October 8, 12:30 Eastern Time. See above for call-in sign up procedure.

Washington DC – Brigadier Rod West, Military Attaché and Assistant Defense Attaché, Australian Embassy to the U.S. U.S./Australian relations. October 15, noon at PRTM. Contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or sewell@bens.org

Washington DC – Ambassador John Herbst, Coordinator for Office of Reconstruction and Stabilization, U.S. Department of State. October 21, noon, location TBD. Contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or sewell@bens.org

Questions or comments? Contact Mike Doubleday at (202) 296-2125 or mdoubleday@bens.org