



Keeping the Best

BENS Helps Secret Service Build High Quality Workforce

The U.S. Secret Service is among the nation's most important national security agencies, with its mission of combating currency counterfeiting, cyber security and protecting the president. But how can the agency retain the highly skilled professionals it needs to carry out such demanding work? Thanks to BENS, the Secret Service now has a few business-minded answers.

Earlier this year, the Secret Service asked BENS members to provide an independent assessment of their retirement program to improve retention of seasoned Special Agents. This month, BENS will present its findings in a report to Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan. The report provides private-sector employee-quality-of-life strategies the agency can use to create a strong retention program and also reviews proposed changes to the service's retirement plan. Further, the report urges the agency to collect more workforce data in order to gain a clearer picture of its Special Agent retention situation.

While greater understanding of the Secret Service's workforce retention issue is needed, the project team, led by member Paul Stern, was able to provide this important agency with a toolbox from which it can enhance employee satisfaction and build the highly quality workforce it needs. Check the BENS website in the near future for the full report.

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

"The Foundation of National Resilience" — If America were attacked with a weapon of mass destruction, the public-private homeland security partnerships model pioneered by BENS would be one of the best ways to help communities recover and bounce back. That was the message from former Senators Bob Graham and Jim Talent when they testified Sept. 22 to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Graham and Talent, who lead the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism, touted the BENS-established Safeguard Iowa Partnership and its key role in helping the state respond to historic floods last year. The model, they said, "should be emulated elsewhere across the country and is applicable to both natural disasters and WMD attacks" in helping to create an engaged and mobilized citizenry — "the foundation of national resilience." To read the full testimony, [click here](#) and click "view testimony."

Business Intelligence — Combating violent extremism, countering weapons of mass destruction and protecting America's network infrastructure will require the intelligence community to streamline its business operations and forge new partnerships with the private sector. Those are two of the

ways the Director of National Intelligence, Adm. Dennis Blair, said the intelligence community would achieve its objectives in the 2009 National Intelligence Strategy, released on Sept. 15. Designed to direct the overall strategy of America's 16 intelligence agencies, the report echoed many BENS priorities — including the use of business services to more efficiently spend taxpayer dollars and tapping into the expertise and perspectives only the private sector can offer. Going forward, BENS will continue working with the DNI to define the private sector's intelligence role.

Securing Investment — If Afghanistan is to become a stable, functioning country, it must develop the pillars of a stable society: infrastructure, good governance and commerce. But how do you establish a healthy economy in such an unhealthy security environment? For answers, U.S. Central Command — headed by BENS Eisenhower Award recipient Gen. David Petraeus — turned to BENS members on Sept. 18. Bringing international business and finance experience to the table, a group of 10 members and other experts offered their viewpoints to Central Command representatives on how to spur investment and economic development in Afghanistan and the wider region. Among the recommendations: aligning regional economic interests, encouraging domestic investment and developing key skills among local populations. Moving forward, BENS will continue to engage Central Command to help it adopt business-minded approaches to Central Asia development.

Regional Partnerships News

BENS: On the Red Carpet — And the award for outstanding achievement in emergency management goes to... BENS! On Sept. 30, the Coastal Chapter of the California Emergency Services Association, which represents emergency managers for state and local government in California, presented its Silver award to BENS and its Bay Area partners for their contributions to emergency preparedness and response efforts in the Golden State. The award recognizes the organizations' valuable contributions of connecting businesses to emergency management efforts, and in particular helping to make sure private-sector experts are on hand 24/7 when disaster strikes.

Event Highlights and BENS Developments

"Extraordinary" Warriors — In what was described by BENS member Georgette Mosbacher as an "extraordinary experience," eight BENS members toured the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 10, where they observed the latest medical technology and lunched with America's wounded heroes. Walter Reed serves over 150,000 servicemen and women from all branches of the military and has a staff of over 6,000. After the tour, members were briefed on the latest developments of the BENS [Warrior Gateway Project](#), which will help wounded veterans — like those recovering at Walter Reed — successfully reenter civilian life.

BENS: Educating Army Leaders — Leading teams and solving problems — both are important skills in the military and the private sector. To help the Army develop professionals with these assets, BENS Kansas City members are now bringing private-sector expertise and perspectives to the institution that molds Army leaders to tackle the toughest warfare challenges: The Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. Through a new partnership with the Command and General Staff College Foundation, members are interfacing with tomorrow's top soldiers at educational events and activities on a number of national and homeland security issues, providing unique insight from the world of business.

"Decide, Communicate and Act" — Molding top-notch Marine officers requires ongoing education, training and leadership development. To find out how the Corps does it, 14 BENS members visited

the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Va., on Sept. 23. The visit included briefings on Marine Corps University and The Basic School, which prepares officers to “decide, communicate and act,” as well as demonstrations and tours of the Precision Weapons Shop, Marine Corps Martial Arts Program and Marine Helicopter Squadron 1.

Yes, BENS Supports the Troops — When visiting troops overseas, Gen. Mike Hagee, 33rd Marine Corps Commandant (Ret.) is often asked, ‘Does America support us?’ Because of groups like BENS, Gen. Hagee can answer yes. That’s what the general told a group of 65 BENS members in Dallas at a luncheon on Sept. 16, where he also discussed the global terrorist threat and warned that pulling U.S. troops out of Afghanistan would be considered a victory by Islamic extremists.

Upcoming Events

- **Atlanta** – Member, Government and Partner Appreciation Event, Nov. 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Dante’s Down the Hatch. Contact Allison Cheatham at acheatham@bens.org.
- **Dallas** – Lunch with Dr. Graham Allison, Director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. Dr. Allison will speak on preventing a nuclear terrorist attack on Oct 14, 11:45 a.m. Contact Matthew Elias at (214) 315-2576 or melias@bens.org.
- **Houston** – Lunch with Gen. Douglas Fraser, Commander, U.S. Southern Command, Nov. 16, 11:45 a.m. Contact Matthew Elias at (214) 315-2576 or melias@bens.org.
- **Kansas City** – Ethical and Legal Issues in Contemporary Conflict, dialogue on ethics and law regarding terrorist detainees, Oct. 1, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Reardon Civic Center, 551 Minnesota Ave. Contact William Lawson at wlawson@bens.org.
- **New York** – Lunch with Hon. David M. Walker, former U.S. Comptroller General, Oct. 8, 12:00–2:00 p.m., 50 Vanderbilt Avenue, The Yale Club of New York, The Trumbull Room. Contact Vickie McGrath at vmcgrath@bens.org.
- **New York** – Lunch with Gen. Victor E. Renuart, Jr., Commander, NORAD & U.S. Northern Command, Oct. 27, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., The Yale Club of New York. Contact Vickie McGrath at vmcgrath@bens.org.
- **New York** – Lunch with Gen. William E. (Kip) Ward, Commander, U.S. Africa Command, Nov. 3, 12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m., The Harvard Club, 27 West 44th Street. Contact Vickie McGrath at vmcgrath@bens.org.
- **San Francisco** – Lunch discussion on South Asia issues with T.V. Paul, Professor of Political Science at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, Oct. 19, 12:00–2:00 p.m., Palantir, Palo Alto. Contact Kathy Denzer at kdenzer@bens.org.
- **San Francisco** – Strategic overview of Asia and the South Pacific with Adm. Timothy Keating, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, Nov. 4, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Marine Memorial Club. Contact Kathy Denzer at kdenzer@bens.org.
- **Washington DC** – Lunch discussion on U.S.-Russia disarmament with James Collins, former Ambassador to the Russian Federation, and Steven Pifer, former Ambassador to the Ukraine, Oct. 20, 12:00-1:30 p.m., J.W. Marriott. Contact Steve Ewell at sewell@bens.org.
- **Washington DC** – Visit to the United States Secret Service James J. Rowley Training Center, Laurel, Md., Oct. 21. Contact Steve Ewell at sewell@bens.org.