



Security We Can Believe In

Public-Private Partners Step Up for Denver Convention

100,000 out of town guests. 5,000 delegates. 15,000 journalists. And a local population of nearly 600,000. Keeping Denver – and the Democratic National Convention – safe and secure last month was a serious challenge. But it all went smoothly, thanks in part to the Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership (CEPP), a BENS facilitated partnership.

The first-of-its-type virtual Business Emergency Operations Center, operated by the CEPP, connected over 80 public and private sector partners and offered area businesses a unique opportunity to support the host city by engaging with local, state, and federal agencies in emergency management and response efforts. From sharing information to helping secure 60,000 bottles of water for spectators waiting to enter Invesco Field, the partnership's successes got high praise.

Another success: the CEPP Alert – a free subscription service provided in cooperation with the Denver Police Department and Mission Mode, a crisis management and emergency notification technology – that kept Denver moving with real-time emergency alerts sent directly to cell phones and other handheld devices regarding road closures, protests, and security updates. These services filled a critical role in one of the year's major events.

The convention also marked the first time the New Jersey Business Emergency Operations Center, located across the country at Picatinny Arsenal, operated during an actual event. The New Jersey BEOC honed its own procedures, while providing logistical and technical assistance to its counterpart in Denver. The successful partnerships underscore the importance of public private collaboration, locally and nationwide, and their important contribution to ensuring safe, resilient communities.

BENS Works: Business Sense for National Security

From Rivals With Love – With commercial espionage against American companies on the rise, BENS is taking the lead in connecting concerned executives with the intelligence officials who know the threat best. On August 25, in his second appearance before a BENS audience in Washington DC, Joel Brenner, the top counterintelligence official in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, warned a select group of BENS members that foreign intelligence organizations are aggressively targeting American business leaders via electronic means, particularly during their travels abroad. Brenner, who outlined specific steps organizations can take to protect their sensitive information against cyber-spies, has expressed a desire to address BENS audiences around the country. Watch this Update for a Brenner event coming to a city near you.

Regional Partnership News

Force Multiplier – Once again, BENS partnerships have made a difference in a real life emergency. With Hurricane Gustav threatening the Gulf Coast, Louisiana emergency management officials turned to several national business organizations for help. They needed transportation for hundreds of relief workers headed into the state and special needs citizens being evacuated. Less than two hours after BENS headquarters relayed the request to its regional partnerships, the [BENS National Aidmatrix portal](#) received an offer from the public benefit flying organization, Angel Flight, to donate the use of 800 general aviation pilots and their privately owned planes. Using the web-based donations-management tool, BENS assigned the offer directly to

officials in Louisiana's Emergency Operations Center. Public-private collaboration and inter-agency coordination have dramatically improved disaster response over the past three years – in part because of new technologies like Aidmatrix and the demonstrated value of partnerships.

AntiVirus 2008 – Thousands suddenly fall ill. Hospitals are overwhelmed. Roads and airports are jammed with evacuees frantic to escape a rapidly-spreading epidemic. That's the nightmare scenario that BENS and its partners from Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas faced August 20 during a Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise. Working out of the Kansas City and Jefferson City Emergency Operation Centers, 750 participants from state, local and federal agencies—along with 20 BENS representatives, who served as the private sector lead—evaluated emergency response plans, identified gaps and highlighted areas for improved coordination between emergency management and public health officials. An after action review documenting lessons learned will take place late this month.

Event Highlights and BENS Developments

Petraeus to Receive Eisenhower Award – BENS is proud to announce that our next Eisenhower Award for distinguished service to the nation will be presented November 19 in New York City to General David H. Petraeus, commander of multinational forces in Iraq, whose counterinsurgency strategy is credited with the dramatic decline in violence in that country. This fall's Eisenhower Award gala will be held at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, the historic decommissioned World War II aircraft carrier. For more information or to reserve your ticket, please contact Jennie Moonis at (202) 296-2125 or jmoonis@bens.org

Upcoming Events

- **Iowa** – First Safeguard Iowa Partnership Annual Meeting, in conjunction with the Fifth Annual Governor's Conference on Homeland Security, September 30, Embassy Suites, Des Moines. Contact Jami Haberl at (515) 281-2973 or jhaberl@safeguardiowa.org
- **Kansas City** – Corporate Anti-terrorism Forum, September 19, 8:30, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Contact Bill Lawson at (816) 842-1778 or wlawson@bens.org
- **Kansas City** – Dinner with Lt. General William B. Caldwell IV, Commander, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, October 2, 6:30, The River Club. Contact Bill Lawson at (816) 842-1778 or wlawson@bens.org
- **Los Angeles** – HSAC Annual Member Meeting & Workshop with key note speakers Sheriff Leroy Baca and Sheriff Sandra Hutchens, September 25, Skirball Cultural Center. Contact Tracy Hughes at (213) 346-9422 or thughes@hsac.bens.org
- **New York** - Visit to United States Military Academy at West Point, including briefings from superintendent and Combating Terrorism Center and walking tour with USMA historian, Sept. 8-9. Contact Kirk Oberfeld at (646) 379-2548 or koberfeld@bens.org
- **New York** - Lunch with Dan Fata, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Europe & NATO, September 25, 12:00, Hotel Plaza Athenee. Contact Kirk Oberfeld at (646) 379-2548 or koberfeld@bens.org
- **San Francisco** – U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier visit, October 1-2, San Diego Harbor. Contact Kathy Denzer at (415) 536-1617 or kdenzer@bens.org
- **San Francisco** – Event with David Walker, Former U.S. Comptroller General and President and CEO, Peter G. Peterson Foundation, October 16, Time and Location TBD. Contact Kathy Denzer at (415) 536-1617 or kdenzer@bens.org
- **Southeast** – Small Group Policy Roundtable Luncheon with General Chuck Boyd, BENS President and CEO and Danielle Camner Lindholm, BENS VP for Policy. September 24, 11:30am. Contact Allison Cheatham at (404) 220-1135 or acheatham@bens.org
- **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** – Lunch with Kris Haag, Director, Banking and Financial Networks, Task Force to Improve Business and Stability Operations, Iraq, September 25, 12:00, Location TBD. Contact Steve Ewell at (202) 296-2125 or sewell@bens.org