



## A Gateway for American Heroes

### *BENS Partners With Google and Cisco to Help Veterans*

The BENS American Heroes Project — launched last year to help veterans returning from the battlefield — is now known as the Warrior Gateway and recently partnered with two of the world's leading technology companies: Cisco and Google.

When operational later this year, the Warrior Gateway will serve as a directory of information for returning troops to learn more about non-profits and government services that help war veterans successfully reenter civilian life. In August, BENS forged a new partnership with Google that will bring the Internet giant's popular and user-friendly innovations to a new Warrior Gateway website. The site will serve as the main portal for America's heroes to find the services they need, when and where they need them.

Meanwhile, Cisco — a pioneer in Internet technology that joined the project in late July — is helping lead the way on the jobs and training portion of the Gateway. Once the site is up and running, veterans will be able to plug their work and military experience in and receive job openings in their area that best match their skills and abilities.

Later this month, BENS will present a prototype of the Warrior Gateway to the annual conference of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs to gain support and receive feedback from VA directors in all 50 states. To stay in the know on the Warrior Gateway project, visit our new blog at <http://warriorgateway.org/blog>.

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

**2010: Help Set the Agenda** — With fiscal challenges constraining national resources, America needs the expertise and experience of business executives to help streamline and improve national security. This is what BENS does best, and now is your chance to help shape the next BENS policy agenda. While the BENS Policy Committee leads the process, we rely heavily on the input of all our members to steer the selection of projects and we look forward to your suggestions. To make your voice heard, [click here](#) to nominate new and expanded BENS work for 2010.

**Push for Change** — The BENS Defense Acquisition Task Force report "[Getting to Best](#)" may be complete, but now the real work begins: urging Congress to adopt its recommendations. Members who feel strongly that the recommendations are critical to helping our troops should use their Capitol Hill contacts to lead the charge as Congress returns from its August recess. If you are willing to make personal contact with your representatives to drive home the need for further defense acquisition reform, BENS can provide you with support. For more information, contact

Susan Maybaumwisniewski at [smaybaum@bens.org](mailto:smaybaum@bens.org) or 202-296-2125.

**Let's Review** — Perhaps no one is more qualified to review the Defense Department's business initiatives than BENS members. That's why we're convening a small work group to examine DoD's latest Strategic Management Plan, released in July, and make business-minded observations on the plan's prospects. If you are interested in joining the review, please contact Butch Hinton at [hhinton@bens.org](mailto:hhinton@bens.org) or 202-296-2125.

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## Regional Partnerships News

**Working Together to Combat Pandemic Flu** — If an H1N1 swine flu outbreak hits this fall, Georgia businesses will be ready to work hand-in-hand with the government to respond, thanks in part to the Georgia Business Force. The GBF is hosting a Pandemic Influenza Response Conference at the Centers for Disease Control on Sept. 21 to assist public health officials with reaching Georgia businesses about government response plans and to stress the role that businesses can play in preparation and cooperation with local health officials. The full-day conference is co-sponsored with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Department of Community Health, Georgia Hospital Association and Roche Laboratories. The Georgia Business Force, established by BENS, has recently incorporated and will begin operating as an independent entity later this month. To find out more about the conference, contact Harry Ferris at [hferris@bens.org](mailto:hferris@bens.org) or 404-468-0262.

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## Event Highlights and BENS Developments

**The National Debt: A National Security Threat** — As ballooning deficits and growing debt made headlines, former U.S. Comptroller General David Walker warned 45 BENS members in Kansas City on Aug. 13 that a national balance sheet in the red is a national security threat. Noting that the federal government's fiscal situation is actually worse than advertised when Social Security and Medicare funding gaps are factored in, Walker said the situation will strain "the resources that will be available for defense and other key national security related initiatives in the future." [Click here](#) for a recent *Washington Post* Q&A with Walker.

**The Future of Nuclear Deterrence** — Will the United States have a nuclear deterrent in the future? That was the question posed by Vice Adm. Carl V. Mauney, Deputy Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, to a lunch audience of 40 BENS members in New York City August 12. Noting that the U.S. built its last nuclear missile in 1982 while other countries continue to develop their arsenals, as well as the lack of new, young talent to replenish the nation's aging nuclear scientist cohort, Mauney said the president has a critical decision to make as to whether the U.S. will have a nuclear deterrent in the future. Mauney also detailed various aspects of the STRATCOM mission, including combating WMDs, tracking space debris and cyber security.

**Manned Landing: BENS Explores NASA** — Next stop, the moon – and beyond. That's the itinerary at NASA's George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., where on Aug. 12 a group of BENS members got a look at the next generation of space exploration. Among its many projects, Marshall helped develop and build the Hubble Space Telescope, Saturn moon rockets and space shuttle engines and boosters. But the future was on display for the seven BENS members who toured numerous project sites at Marshall, including life support systems for planned space outposts and mock-ups of the Ares rocket project, which will replace the space shuttle program and transport tomorrow's astronauts.

**Survey Says** — In the midst of an influenza outbreak, will your business be ready? [The Center for](#)

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

[Biopreparedness Education](#) at the University of Nebraska Medical Center needs your help to find out. Please [click here](#) to take a brief, anonymous, 12-question survey that will help improve business readiness for a pandemic.

**Don't Know Much About (BENS) History?** — Keeping weapons of mass destruction away from terrorists. Plugging private-sector resources into disaster response. Saving the military billions of dollars. These are just a few of BENS' major accomplishments since 1982, but how did they happen? To find out, visit the new [Past Work section](#) of the BENS website, which details the history of BENS projects that have improved the nation's security.

**Same Great BENS, All-New Look** — Come see the latest attraction in the nation's capital: the new BENS national office! On Aug. 24, we made our new home at **1030 15<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 200 East, Washington, D.C., 20005**. Phone and fax numbers and email addresses remain the same. If you're in town, please stop by for a tour!

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## Upcoming Events

- **Atlanta** – Lunch and tour of Secure Works, Inc. cyber security operations center with BENS member Mike Cote, Secure Works President & CEO, Sept. 22, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Contact Allison Cheatham at [acheatham@bens.org](mailto:acheatham@bens.org).
- **Dallas** – Gen. Mike Hagee, USMC (Ret.), 33<sup>rd</sup> Commandant of the United States Marine Corps and Executive Director of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, Sept. 16, 11:45 a.m. at the Rosewood Crescent Hotel, Salons A&B. Contact Matthew Elias at [melias@bens.org](mailto:melias@bens.org).
- **Washington DC** – Lunch discussion with Randy Beardsworth, former Homeland Security Assistant Secretary, Sept. 15, noon, Mayflower Hotel. Contact Steve Ewell at [sewell@bens.org](mailto:sewell@bens.org).
- **Washington DC** – Visit to Marine Corps base in Quantico, Va., Sept. 23, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Contact Steve Ewell at [sewell@bens.org](mailto: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](mailto:sewell@bens.org).