A WORD FROM OUR CEO AND OUR CHAIRMAN

As we present our 2023 Leadership Report, it's essential to highlight BENS' unique role as a bridge between the private sector and government, driving positive change in the national security landscape. We extend our profound appreciation for the unwavering support and dedication shown by our members. Their commitment serves as a powerful force in shaping and fortifying the future of national security, forging enduring partnerships, and delivering innovative solutions for a safer and more secure United States.

The year 2023 saw significant developments as we continued to serve as a platform for fresh perspectives, innovative insights, and proven nonpartisan solutions. BENS members had the privilege of engaging with some of the nation's most accomplished and powerful national security leaders, gaining a unique understanding of decision-makers' challenges from their personal view. They served as advisors to senior national security leaders, influencing critical security policies and practices.

BENS opened doors to exclusive events, roundtables, and discussions with top-level officials and experts. These high-level dialogues provided opportunities to address pressing national security challenges collectively. Collaboration with like-minded leaders from diverse industries channeled collective expertise into actionable insights, playing a crucial role in shaping national security policy at the highest levels.

Importantly, as we enter the 2024 election season, BENS remains fiercely nonpartisan, prioritizing security and resilience above political considerations. Upholding the highest ethical standards, we ensure trust and transparency in all interactions, further enhancing our track record of delivering tangible, lasting positive impacts on national security. Through collaboration with BENS, leaders across the national security enterprise continue to contribute to enhancing the safety and security of the United States.

We acknowledge and appreciate the trust our government partners placed in us, allowing us to bring fresh perspectives, insights, and proven nonpartisan solutions to their most pressing challenges. As we look ahead to 2024, we remain dedicated to our mission, committed to strengthening the bridge between the public and private sectors, and continuing to provide applied insights that drive dialogue and enhance national security.

Mark Gerencser
CHAIRMAN

General Tim Ray, USAF (Ret.)
PRESIDENT AND CEO
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The Business Executives for National Security (BENS) brand is characterized by several key attributes and values that define its identity and reputation:

**NONPARTISAN**
BENS is steadfast in its commitment to nonpartisanship, placing national security and resilience at the forefront, independent of political considerations. This unwavering stance positions BENS as a trusted and neutral partner in addressing critical national security challenges.

**COLLABORATIVE**
BENS emphasizes collaboration among its members, government partners, and stakeholders from various sectors. Its brand reflects a collective willingness to work together to find actionable solutions to complex security challenges.

**FORWARD THINKING**
BENS is a proven thought leader that consistently provides innovative approaches to emerging security challenges. Through its strategic-level efforts, committees, working groups, engagements, and experiential trips, the organization actively contributes to shaping policies and strategies related to the nation’s security.

**EXPERT**
The BENS brand is closely associated with seasoned business and industry leaders who bring profound proficiency and optimal business methodologies to discussions. This proficiency stands out as a defining feature of the organization’s problem-solving approach.

**IMPACTFUL**
The BENS brand is synonymous with tangible impact in addressing national security challenges. Through successful convenings, projects and initiatives, the organization has made a significant difference in enhancing the security landscape.

**TRUSTED**
BENS is widely recognized as a trusted partner and convener within the national security community. It is seen as an organization that focuses solely on strengthening U.S. security and the national security enterprise, discreetly and without ulterior motives.
OUR MISSION

Founded in 1982 by business executive and entrepreneur Stanley A. Weiss, BENS unites elite business executives with senior national security leaders.

Our mission is to harness private-sector expertise, foster public-private collaboration and provide actionable insights to safeguard our nation.

As a nonprofit, we're committed to enhancing national security, offering our services at no cost to the government.

OUR PURPOSE

To harness private-sector expertise with unwavering determination while adhering to core values including nonpartisanship, expertise, and integrity, to fortify national security in a complex global landscape.

We provide private sector insights, build partnerships, and address security challenges while upholding the highest ethical standards.

OUR VISION

To be the driving force that empowers senior national security leaders and the nation's elite business executives to collaboratively shape and fortify the future of national security, forging enduring partnerships, and delivering innovative solutions for a safer and more secure United States.
In 2023, BENS dedicated itself to fostering a strong community by celebrating the personal accomplishments of our valued members. We take pride in applauding their successes and eagerly share these moments with the broader BENS network of executives.

**BENS MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**MAR 5 | BENS MEMBER**

**Alex Ladage**
Alex, formerly of UBS Wealth Management USA, and his five-person team were hired by Rockefeller Capital Management to open the firm’s first private advisor team to headquartered in Austin, Texas.

**MAR 26 | BENS MEMBER**

**Mark Shenkman**
Mark, Founder and President of Shenkman Capital Management was honored with the Museum of American Finance’s Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding career in the investment industry.

**APR 9 | BENS MEMBER**

**Olga Torres**
In recognition of her work related to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), Olga Torres, Founder and Managing Member of Torres Trade Law, PLLC was named to the Foreign Investment Watch Top Advisors 2023 List.

**APR 23 | BENS MEMBER**

**Adam Blum**
Adam received the Rising Star Award from the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas’ Hall of Fame ceremony. He was recognized for his business achievements, leadership, and loyalty to the McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas.

**APR 30 | BENS MEMBER**

**Joe Nemec**
BENS member Joe Nemec, Managing Director at Morgan Stanley, was named the new Global Head of Cyber Risk Management at Morgan Stanley.

**MAY 7 | BENS BOARD MEMBER**

**Mary Boies**
Mary headlined the History Channel’s “HISTORY This Week” podcast, with a discussion about the scrappy upstart called Pacific Southwest Airlines, the world’s first budget airline.

**MAY 21 | BENS MEMBER**

**Michelle Giuda**
Michelle, Director, Krach Institute for Tech Diplomacy at Purdue was host to NATO Deputy Secretary General Mircea Geoana. Included in the discussion was the urgency of accelerating innovation and adoption of trusted tech across the Alliance.

**JUL 2 | BENS MEMBER**

**Shaun Modi**
Shaun, founder and CEO of Capitol AI was selected to visit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attend his address to the joint session of the U.S.

**JUL 23 | BENS MEMBER**

**Mark Testoni**
Mark, former CEO of SAP National Security Services, was appointed Executive Chairman at Arlington, Virginia-based professional services company cBEYOND Data.

**JUL 30 | BENS MEMBER**

**Dr. Kathleen Kiernan**
Dr. Kiernan was unanimously appointed to the Board of Directors of the International Biometrics + Identity Association (IBIA). IBIA is the leading voice for the biometrics and identity technology industry.

**AUG 13 | BENS MEMBER**

**Rick Simon**
Rick, CEO, United Service Companies and Marine Corps Veteran serves as Advisory Board member of MCON, an organization that celebrates the military and veteran community and improves the well-being of those who served and their families.

**SEP 17 | BENS MEMBER**

**Bob Sappio**
Bob, CEO of SeaCube Containers LLC, was honored with the 2023 Connie Award from the Containerization & Intermodal Institute. The Connie Award, founded by CII in 1972, is the most prestigious honor in the global containerization and intermodal industry.
Frank Walter
Frank was recognized by Vanderbilt University with the inaugural Vanderbilt Way Award. The award celebrates outstanding recent volunteer service to Vanderbilt schools, alumni groups, and other university areas.

Flo Groberg
Flo, Senior Director for Azure Government Mission Engineering was newly elected to the Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) all-volunteer board of directors.

Chris Harris
Chris, VP of Defense/Americas for SPEE3D has worked with key staff to train and supply Ukraine with metal 3D printers. The printers will be deployed near the frontlines in an effort to rapidly fabricate critical repair parts for more than 40 different armored platforms.

Jim Gurr
Jim, Chairman and CEO of American Battery Factory (ABF), broke ground on the largest US lithium iron phosphate cell gigafactory in Tucson, Arizona.

George Knost
George, Owner and President of Arkel International, oversaw the acquisition of San Juan Construction’s business line in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Jim Gurr
Jim, Chairman and CEO of American Battery Factory (ABF), broke ground on the largest US lithium iron phosphate cell gigafactory in Tucson, Arizona.

Adam Leslie
Adam was named as the Director at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) in Washington, D.C., where his focus will be on the vital relationship between Australia and the United States.

Jennifer Pritzker
Jennifer accepted the 2023 Elizabeth Dole Foundation Caregiver Ally award during the foundation’s annual Heroes & History Makers celebration at The Anthem in Washington, D.C.

PJ Bain
PJ, CEO of PrimeRevenue and member of BENS, was recognized in the 2023 Georgia 500. This list highlights individuals contributing to economic development and local investments throughout the state.

Michael Masters
Michael, National Director and CEO of Secure Community Network (SCN) was interviewed by NBC Chicago to discuss how SCN is addressing increasing threats targeting Jewish communities.

Paul Madera
Paul spoke at the Military Veteran Startup Conference (MVS). This premier event brings together veterans, founders, institutional LPs, and operators.
The BENS Eisenhower Award honors the contributions of public servants and private citizens who safeguard our freedom. As President Eisenhower said in his prophetic farewell address over five decades ago:

“Between the actions of the moment and the national welfare of the future we want democracy to survive for all generations to come.”
Honorees

SPRING 2023

General Mark Milley
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

FALL 2023

General Bryan P. Fenton
Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command

Glenn H. Hutchins
Chairman, North Island and North Island Ventures

Business Executives for National Security 2023 Eisenhower Award Gala
In 2023, BENS continued its tireless efforts to revolutionize the traditional defense industrial base, shaping it into a dynamic, modern system capable of harnessing the latest technological advancements. These initiatives included proactive dialogues with key defense leaders and the publication of a series of member-authored articles. These articles expand upon the foundational concepts introduced by BENS Distinguished Fellow James 'Hondo' Geurts and former CEO, retired General Joseph Votel, in their influential editorial, 'Forging the Industrial Network the Nation Needs.' In these comprehensive articles, which provide deep industry insights and strategic recommendations, we build on their visionary work to prepare the nation's defense industrial base for the dynamic security challenges of the 21st century.

**Highlights:**

“**Leveraging U.S. Capital Markets to Support the Future Industrial Network**”
by General Joseph Votel, Francis Finelli, and Samuel Cole (January 12, 2023)

“**Maintaining the U.S. Defense Sector’s Competitive Edge**”
by Kurt Scherer and Fatih Ozmen (July 18, 2023)

“**Getting Serious About Enhancing U.S. Defense Partnerships**”
by Raanan Horowitz and Stan Crow (November 1, 2023)

Panel at the **America’s Future Series’ National Security CLASS Summit**, featuring BENS Chairman Mark Gerencser and members Frank Finelli, Sam Cole, and Ed Kania (September 28, 2023)

**DEVELOPING THE NATIONAL SECURITY WORKFORCE**

*Cultivating a Skilled and Agile National Security Workforce*
In 2023, BENS embarked on an exciting collaborative venture with the esteemed team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Security Studies Program. Our shared goal was to infuse business and economic elements into traditional military and political wargaming scenarios, opening up new frontiers of exploration.

This venture kicked off with a dynamic wargame, co-designed by MIT and the Center for Strategic and International Studies, which vividly portrayed a hypothetical Chinese invasion of Taiwan. Fifteen of our esteemed BENS members eagerly participated in this exercise, immersing themselves in the fascinating world of wargaming.

In parallel, our New England-based member, Jeremy Hitchcock, introduced cutting-edge AI technology into this inaugural game. It showcased the tremendous potential of AI in enhancing strategic decision-making processes, offering critical insights, and expediting decision-making in high-stakes situations.

Wargames play an indispensable role in shaping national security strategy and preparedness, and the involvement of industry leaders like our members is paramount. Their contributions, from technological innovation to business expertise, ground our strategies and policies in a practical understanding of the possibilities and limitations, both technologically and economically.

At BENS, we are unwavering in our commitment to expanding the scope and effectiveness of wargaming. Our aim is to further integrate these invaluable industry insights into future simulations and strategic exercises. This continuous improvement ensures that wargaming remains a robust and relevant tool, enabling us to address the ever-evolving and increasingly complex national security landscape with confidence.

Since 2014, BENS members have been at the forefront of supporting our government partners in tackling their workforce challenges, including the military service branches, Coast Guard, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

In the present day, a dedicated BENS Special Working Group, composed of senior executives with extensive leadership development and talent management expertise, serves as the essential conduit for BENS’ workforce initiatives. This group stands as a steadfast resource for military and federal government partners actively seeking private sector insights on these pressing matters.

In 2023, the members of this esteemed group collaborated closely with our government partners to shed light on innovative solutions for addressing recruitment gaps within Federal Law Enforcement and Military Services. The challenges of data-driven recruiting and attracting Generation Z talent have become persistent issues across the broader security community, and our members have been instrumental in tackling them head-on.

Among the highlights of our workforce initiatives, we had the privilege of hosting a compelling BENS Panel at the Joint Recruiting Commanders Conference.
BENS’ Response to HASC Subcommittee Survey  |  January 20

House Armed Services Committee (HASC)

In January 2023, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems reached out to leaders in the U.S. defense and national security sectors to gather valuable insights on critical issues impacting the U.S. Defense Industrial Base.

1) Capability Scaling: Recognizing the DoD’s challenges in scaling capabilities within budget constraints, the NDAA presents an opportunity for strategic investment. We engaged our members to provide feedback on DoD programs, funds, and provisions that private companies are comfortable partnering with to advance scaling initiatives.

2) Contracting Challenges: Small- and mid-sized companies often face hurdles in navigating the complexities of DoD contracts. Our members shared actionable challenges encountered during contracting in the DoD ecosystem, with a focus on identifying solutions within the next few years.

3) Cyber Workforce Solutions: Addressing cybersecurity workforce challenges is crucial for national security. We sought insights from the private sector on how to foster secure collaboration with the DoD and the specific challenges companies encounter when entering into DoD contracts in the realm of cybersecurity.

BENS members played a pivotal role in providing thoughtful responses to the HASC Subcommittee’s inquiries. Their expertise and dedication continue to be instrumental in contributing to the continued strength and resilience of the U.S. Defense Industrial Base. We are proud to represent a community of leaders committed to advancing national security and the defense industrial ecosystem.

BENS Response to OSC DoD Survey  |  March 21

Office of Strategic Capital (OSC), Department of Defense

In March 2023, BENS collaborated with the Office of Strategic Capital (OSC) within the Department of Defense. OSC, established in December, focuses on developing partnered capital strategies to advance U.S. technological capabilities.

1) Leveraging Government-Backed Loan Guarantees: BENS members shared insights on strategic funding allocation to enhance the U.S. position in critical technology sectors.

2) Utilizing Government Instruments: Members discussed how government co-investment and government-backed loans can catalyze deep technology advancements.

3) Facilitating International Partnerships: BENS provided ideas on enabling collaborative investment ventures with allies and partners.

Our members play a pivotal role in shaping the future of technologies, reinforcing national security, and strengthening global partnerships. BENS remains dedicated to fostering collaboration and advancing technology critical to our nation’s defense.
BENS Discussion with General CQ Brown  |  March 28

*Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force*

BENS engaged with General Charles Q. Brown, Jr., Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force. General Brown actively pursued collaboration between the Air Force, technology firms, and venture capital. He shared insights from his tech sector interactions, seeking input on challenges and opportunities within the Department of Defense.

Our members contributed valuable perspectives on bridging the gap between tech companies and DoD, fostering innovation, and addressing procedural hurdles. This dialogue reaffirms BENS’ commitment to constructive discussions and impactful solutions in the defense ecosystem.

BENS Discussion with Chief Sustainability Officer and Chief Advisor for Climate at DoD  |  March 30

At the 2022 BENS Forum, we organized a panel on the National Security Implications of Transitioning to New Energy. The panel featured Joe Bryan, a representative from GM Defense, and American Battery Factory, moderated by CNBC's Brian Sullivan.

Since then, our discussions with the Department of Defense (DOD) have continued, and the questions posed at the Forum remained pertinent. We sought answers to pressing questions, such as how to ensure a safe, stable, and secure transition to renewable energy. Additionally, we explored the measures that the private sector should take to safeguard critical supply chains from threats, and how the government could support these efforts.

Joe Bryan, who was tasked with addressing the climate crisis through clean energy technology deployment, expressed a strong desire to accelerate public-private collaboration in renewable markets. We were honored that he chose BENS as a partner for this critical initiative and encouraged our members to participate in this engaging exchange of ideas.

Jordan Trip Debrief  |  April 12

*with Henry Wooster, US Ambassador to Jordan*

BENS hosted a debrief with US Ambassador to Jordan, Henry Wooster, following our international trip. The group discussed the Jordan trip report and key takeaways.

Strategic Leaders  |  April 17

*International Course with Tom Cosentino, BENS COO*

BENS members visited The Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School to address foreign military officers from CENTCOM, EUCOM, and AFRICOM on public-private partnerships.

China-focused  |  April 28

*Military Wargame*

A collaborative effort, involving BENS and teams from MIT, CSIS, and the Naval War College, provided BENS members with the opportunity to engage in a China-focused military conflict.
State Department International   |   May 2
Visitor Program (IVLP) Panel
The International Visitor Leadership Program is the U.S. Department of State’s premier professional exchange program. Through short-term visits to the United States, current and emerging foreign leaders in a variety of fields experience our country firsthand and cultivate lasting relationships with their American counterparts. Professional meetings reflect the participants’ professional interests and support the foreign policy goals of the United States.

SOF Week Murder Board   |   May 3
Two years ago, SOCOM made the decision to expand its annual industry partnership event (formerly known as SOFIC) into a broader national convention for the entire Special Operations Forces Community. SOF Week 2023, taking place next month (8-11 May), marks the launch of this new, modified format. Attendees at this event represent key audiences for SOCOM in the execution of its mission, and General Bryan Fenton really wants to ensure that the messaging that he and key members of his leadership team will use there is effective and high-impact, particularly for their industry partners.

Defense Innovation Board (DIB) S&T Task Force   |   May 12
BENS Quick Turn Request
BENS received a request from the National Defense Science & Technology Strategy Review Task Force, chaired by former Congressman Mac Thornberry. The panel, which included Mr. Ryan Swann; Retired Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen, and Dr. Gilda Barabino, was interested in hearing reactions to the strategy and ideas for how to strengthen the connection between the commercial sector and national security community from a variety of stakeholders. They were especially appreciative of BENS member insights and perspectives to help inform the DIB’s recommendations to the Secretary of Defense.

Young President's Organization (YPO)   |   May 31
National War College (NWC) Fellowship Kick-off Event
The National War College (NWC) educates future leaders of the Armed Forces, Department of State, and other federal civilian agencies on high-level policy and command through executive-level courses in national security strategy. In collaboration with NWC, YPO has created a National Security Fellowship aimed at enhancing US and partner nation security through the symbiotic partnering of business leaders and national security strategists. Knowing of BENS’ shared interest in this goal, YPO reached out to invite our participation moving forward as well.

The first iteration of this National Security Fellowship was planned as a nine-month program aligned with NWC’s academic year. Sixteen fellows, all members of YPO or both YPO and BENS, will each have two to three “touchpoints” with NWC students during each semester, culminating with a capstone two-day national security strategy development exercise addressing a contemporary security challenge.
Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA)  |  May 31
Follow-up Discussion, Navy Maintenance
Vice Admiral Bill Galinis, Commander of NAVSEA, discussed our visit and the four areas of support offered to Admiral Caudle: infrastructure re-capitalization, shipyard IT infrastructure, working capital for inventory, and workforce recruiting and retention. They had a constructive discussion, and Vice Admiral Galinis expressed receptiveness to all observations, suggesting a follow-on session with the delegation.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)  |  June 8
Economic Wargaming Event
BENS collaborated with the esteemed staff from MIT to present an immersive economic-focused wargame. This event offered BENS members the chance to actively engage in a simulated economic scenario, providing a platform to analyze and strategize responses to diverse economic challenges. It was an enriching experience that combined MIT’s cutting-edge research with the practical insights of BENS members, fostering innovative approaches to economic security and resilience.

Defense Comptrollership Program (DCP)  |  June 13
BENS Quick Turn Request for Help
BENS received a request from Students in the DCP at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, sought BENS member expertise for their Capstone Project. Their focus was on best practices in vendor relationship management within the private sector. The DCP equips future comptrollers/resource managers with conceptual perspective, practical tools, and management skills for the complex resource management environment. This research informed a larger study by the Defense Business Board (DBB) on an integrated virtual environment for vendor management in the DoD.

Guyana Embassy  |  June 21
Meeting
BENS held a group meeting with the US Embassy in Guyana to discuss future collaborative efforts. During the meeting, participants engaged in detailed discussions about potential projects and initiatives to advance national security objectives. The dialogue encompassed a range of topics, including economic development, security cooperation, and strategic partnerships.

State Department  |  August 21
Independent Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) Panel
State Department IVLP panel on countering human trafficking.

Strategic Leaders  |  June 26
International Course (SLIC)
Our first event for the SLIC saw BENS members, accompanied by former BENS COO, Brigadier General Tom Cosentino, USN (Ret), visiting the Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School (NAVSCIATTS) to address foreign military officers from NORTHCOM and SOUTHCOM on the topic of public-private partnerships within the U.S. government.

NAVSEA Mentorship Overview and Kick-off Meeting  |  August 25
Following the May discussion with Vice Admiral Bill Galinis, August saw an expansion of the BENS/NAVSEA partnership resulting from his proposed collaboration. He aimed to recruit business executives as mentors to officers within his command, recognizing BENS members as ideal candidates. NAVSEA, with 86,600 civilian and military personnel, oversees the Navy’s shipbuilding and maintenance. The Mentorship Program exposes group commanders and select flag officers to business leadership approaches for potential integration into their work.
Symposium on Corporate National Security Responsibility

This symposium addressed the roles of business and industry in economic, homeland, and national security. Discussions covered economic competition, competition law, corporate cooperation, and collaboration. Participants also explored the Department of Defense and Intelligence Community's role in maintaining Defense Industrial Base capabilities and procurement with private sector competitors. Cooperation with allies, partners, and friends, including interoperability and International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) considerations, were also discussed.

AUSA Panel

Lieutenant General Jody J. Daniels, Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, approached BENS to help identify a panelist for her AUSA panel. The panel comprised Lieutenant General Christopher T. Donahue, Commanding General, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Liberty; Maj Gen Simon Graham, UK Director Reserves; a senior DOD civilian; an industry partner; with LTG Daniels moderating. The discussion focused on civilian skills for the future fight and service models. Kenny Cushing, CEO of NetCentrics, served as the BENS member panelist.

Dr. Laura D. Taylor-Kale, Assistant Secretary

A roundtable event was held with Dr. Laura D. Taylor-Kale, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy (AS-D(IBP)), to gather feedback for the National Defense Industrial Strategy. Following the discussion, a written report was submitted to ASD Taylor-Kale, to which she responded that her team would integrate the feedback into their work on the implementation plan.
BENS Dinner | December 6
Discussion
The BENS Discussion with General James E. Rainey (USA), Commanding General of the U.S. Army Futures Command, focused on Contested Logistics. This engaging discussion delved into the challenges and strategies surrounding logistics in contested environments, exploring innovative approaches to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in such scenarios.

State Department | November 16
IVLP Panel
The Independent Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) Panel, hosted by the State Department, centered on protecting soft targets against terrorist attacks. This panel provided an insightful discussion on strategies and measures to safeguard vulnerable areas from potential threats.

HBS and MIT Technology | December 8
and National Security Conference
Mentorship Program
Members of the MIT-Harvard Business School Tech & National Security Conference recently came to BENS with a unique opportunity for potential collaboration between their team and BENS. This student-led conference on the MIT Campus has quickly become one of the top technology and national security conferences in the region.

BENS Panel at the Domestic | December 14
Security Alliance Council (DSAC)
BENS members participated in a panel event hosted by the FBI at the Domestic Security Alliance Council (DSAC). Moderated by BG Cosentino, panelists included Andrew Hersh, Jeremy Hitchcock, and Michael Capps. The panel discussion provided valuable insights into domestic security challenges and collaboration opportunities between the private sector and law enforcement agencies.

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VIRTUAL DISCUSSION
with Dr. Jason Rathje, Director, Office of Strategic Capital, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Research and Engineering (OUSD(R&E))

VIRTUAL CONVERSATION
with Former British Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab

DISCUSSION
with Thom Shanker and Andrew Hoehn centered on their recently released book titled "Age of Danger: Keeping America Safe in an Era of New Superpowers, New Weapons, and New Threats."

CONVERSATION
with Michael G. Vickers, Former Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence.
BENS proudly welcomed 11 Chicago business leaders into the inaugural NextGen BENS cohort. Comprising C-suite and rising executives in their 30s and 40s, these individuals share a passion for national security and engaged in collaborative discussions over four executive leadership sessions.

NextGen BENS, crafted by and tested in BENS’ Chicago Region, aims to establish an alumni network of emerging mid-career U.S. business executives. This network is committed to understanding and supporting the BENS mission both now and in the future.
Briefing with CRISIS24 on the regional security implications of the current situation in Israel and Gaza.

Discussion with Major General (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, Former National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel and chairman of the National Security Council from April 2011 - November 2013

OCT 19

OCT 26
Conversation with Major General (Res.) Amos Gilead, Former Director of Policy and Political-Military Affairs at the Israeli Ministry of Defense

Discussion with Lieutenant General Michael R. Fenzel, United States Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority, United States Embassy, Jerusalem
"Building the Base" - An in-depth series of conversations with top entrepreneurs and leaders from tech, financial, industrial, and public sectors.

Our podcast's guests weigh in on a broad selection of topics such as: shaping our future national security industrial base, leadership in challenging times, experiences related to the intersection of business and national security, and personal anecdotes related to their positions of influence.

Building the Base is hosted by BENS Director, Lauren Bedula, Managing Director and National Security Technology Practice Lead at Beacon Global Strategies and BENS' Distinguished Fellow, Jim "Hondo" Geurts who retired from performing the duties of the Under Secretary of the Navy and former Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition.
| Episode 28 | Debbie James  
FORMER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Episode 29 | Billy Thalmeier  
CEO AND FOUNDER, REGENT CRAFT |
| Episode 30 | Jason Rathje  
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR STRATEGIC CAPITAL |
| Episode 31 | Cameron McCord  
CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, NOMINAL |
| Episode 32 | Whitney McNamara  
VICE PRESIDENT, BEACON GLOBAL STRATEGIES |
| Episode 33 | Pete Modigliani  
VICE PRESIDENT, BEACON GLOBAL STRATEGIES |
| Episode 34 | Biz Peabody  
CHIEF OF STAFF, SHIELD AI |
| Episode 35 | Akhil Iyer  
VICE PRESIDENT, SHIELD CAPITAL |
| Episode 36 | Mike Brown  
FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE DEFENSE INNOVATION UNIT (DIU) |
| Episode 37 | Nand Mulchandani  
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER AT THE CIA |
| Episode 38 | Katherine Boyle  
GENERAL PARTNER, ANDREESSEN HOROWITZ, AMERICAN DYNAMISM |
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| Episode 40 | Karen Dahut  
CEO, GOOGLE PUBLIC SECTOR |
| Episode 41 | General Joe Anderson  
FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY |
| Episode 42 | Shelly O’Neill Stoneman  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, LOCKHEED MARTIN |
| Episode 43 | Dana Deasy  
FORMER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER |
| Episode 44 | Jim Hake  
FOUNDER, SPIRIT OF AMERICA |
"Five Questions with the CEO" offers an opportunity to get to know BENS members through brief conversations that explore the intersection of business and national security. In these interviews, private-sector leaders discuss industry best practices for assisting the national security agencies in executing their missions to keep America secure.
BENS Thought
Leadership Op-Eds
BENS Boston thrives on the interaction between members, private sector leaders, government partners, and academics. Highlights in 2023 include:

General Andrew P. Poppas, Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), visited Boston for a discussion on readiness, modernization, recruiting and retention, and the safety and manning of the Total Army Force.

Boston members participated in a session at MIT exploring the "Innovation of the Future of Autonomous Systems" with Dr. Sertac Karaman, Director of the MIT Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems; Dr. Fiona Murray, the British Prime Minister’s Council on Science & Technology; Dr. Will Roper, former Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition & current CEO of Istari; and Dr. Jerry Wohletz, President & CEO of Draper Labs.

Members were invited to tour the Gingko Bioworks Foundry – the high-tech “factory” where organism engineering is automated and scaled to allow engineers to prototype thousands of biological designs – followed by dinner with Gingko Co-Founder & CEO Jason Kelly.

Douglas Tamilio, Director of U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM), hosted BENS Boston members at the Soldier Center in Natick, MA, in October. Following a tour of the facility, members and DEVCOM leadership discussed the center’s current research and development projects and the challenges their team is facing.
With a continued focus on connecting the best in business with leaders in the national security enterprise, BENS Chicago offered its members a varied and engaging program of opportunities.

Recruitment and retention of military talent was an often-discussed topic at roundtables with General Andrew Poppas, Commander of US Army Forces Command; Major General Ed Thomas, Commander, US Air Force Recruiting Services; General Gary M. Brito, Commanding General of the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command; and Rear Admiral Jennifer Couture, Commander of Great Lakes Naval Service Training Command. Members in Chicago hosted additional conversations with former Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Michael Vickers; Lieutenant General Richard Moore, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Plans and Programs; and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia Heino Klink. They also had the opportunity to travel to nearby Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, IL, the nation’s largest government-owned and operated arsenal.

In an exciting first for BENS, Chicago launched NextGen BENS, a pilot program for rising, mid-career executives designed to foster an interest in national security and generate an alumni network of emerging leaders who will support the BENS mission now and in the future. Among other activities, the cohort of eleven NextGen members participated in a leadership session with Ambassador Ivo Daalder, former US Permanent Representative to NATO and current CEO and President of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

NEW YORK

BENS NY members brought their expertise to a series of events with government partners, including a trip to observe Customs and Border Protection security operations at JFK International Airport and to visit NYPD Intelligence Bureau’s watch floor and speak with their leadership.

Members joined the Honorable Juan Carlos Pinzón, former Colombian Ambassador to the United States and former Colombian Minister of Defence at a roundtable dinner to discuss diplomatic and security challenges relating to our two countries and the region at large. Vice Admiral Kevin E. Lunday, US Coast Guard Atlantic Area Commander, spoke with members about the Coast Guard’s strategic priorities and how they play out daily in the Atlantic Area, which oversees the transit of 58% of imports and 82% of total US maritime commerce through its ports.

Major General John Olson, USAF, the Mobilization Assistant to the Chief of Space Operations, shared an overview of efforts to organize, train, and equip space forces; develop and acquire military space systems; and conduct space operations to advance and protect U.S. and allied interests. Drawing on his background as the first Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer for the Air Force, Maj Gen Olson and BENS members discussed in-depth how data and AI are shaping the current and future battlespace as well as strategic competition with China and Russia.

NY members were also briefed on the upcoming Polaris Dawn civilian space mission by BENS Member and Mission Commander Jared Isaacman; took an early look at the NY Cyber Taskforce’s latest report; and dove deep into Information Warfare. They attended the US Navy ship commissioning ceremony for USS Cooperstown (LCS 23) and toured USS New York (LDP 21).

SOUTHEAST

BENS Southeast members participated in a robust schedule of trips, roundtables, and engagements.

In partnership with ATL Vets, BENS Southeast hosted a VIP dinner and fireside chat at the Atlanta History Center in support of the release of a new book, Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine, by General David Petraeus, USA (Ret.).

Southeast members had the unique opportunity to spend a day at the Clay National Guard Center, meeting with Major General Tom Carden, the Georgia Adjutant General, and other members of the Georgia National Guard (GANG) leadership. During the visit, discussions focused on various missions being executed by the GANG, their response requirements, and recruiting.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Keri Farley hosted Southeast members at Atlanta FBI Headquarters and provided an in-depth overview of the national threat landscape and local Atlanta-area concerns. Members also had the opportunity to hear from anthropologist Dr. Montgomery McFate, who shared her work with the US Army to develop their Human Terrain System. And Professor Fei-Ling Wang, Ph.D. of Georgia Tech’s Sam Nunn School of Internation Affairs led members in a timely discussion on China, their strategy, and Taiwan.

Southeast members also enjoyed opportunities to spend time together socially through quarterly BENS Dining Out socials in Atlanta and Tampa, small group dinners, and an afternoon of shooting sporting clays at the Burge Club.
BENS Texas' extensive event schedule continued this year, bringing engaging speakers and experiences to all four member cities — Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio.

Roundtable discussions included notables such as Vice Admiral Robert S. Harward, Jr., USN (Ret.), former Deputy Commander, USCENTCOM; World War II Historian Martin K. A. Morgan; Major General Kelly McKeague, USAF (Ret.), Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency; and General Robert B. Neller, USMC (Ret.), 37th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps.

An exclusive dinner in Austin gave members the opportunity to engage with recently retired Rear Admiral Wyman Howard, USN, former Commander of Naval Special Warfare, on the subject of climate change as a national security threat.

Dallas members discussed the Afghanistan withdrawal and post-US/NATO Afghanistan with former CENTCOM Commander, General Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr., USMC (Ret.). They also participated in an engaging and thought-provoking conversation on Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine with General David Petraeus, USA (Ret.).

In San Antonio and Houston, members were briefed on Information Warfare by Brian Murphy, former Department of Homeland Security Acting Under Secretary for the Office of Intelligence and Analysis; America's nuclear triad by Patty-Jane Geller, Senior Policy Analyst for Nuclear Deterrence and Missile Defense at the Heritage Foundation's Center for National Defense; and Iran by former national security official and Iranian American Hamlet Yousef.

BENS members and friends in the DC area participated in a wide variety of trips and events to offer their expertise and insights. A delegation visited the State Department's federal law enforcement and security bureau, the Diplomatic Security Service (DSS), and their unique Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), a public-private partnership between DSS and US security professionals.

After the unveiling of the new Stanley A. Weiss Conference Center, located at the BENS National Office, members joined a roundtable discussion with Jamie Kraut, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Middle East and Asia in the Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes at the US Department of the Treasury, who shared her department's policies and strategies for combating illicit financing threats in both regions.

Additional conversations included Seamus P. Daniels of CSIS, who provided members with an overview of the FY 24 Defense Budget; Major General John Olson, USAF, who spoke on Space Force, data, and artificial intelligence; and Major General Kelly McKeague, USAF (Ret.) Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, who provided insights on the mission to recover American military personnel listed as prisoners of war or missing in action from past conflicts.

DC members also engaged in a timely dialogue with The Honorable Alan F. Estevez, Under Secretary for Industry and Security at the Department of Commerce. Hosted by BENS member Olga Torres, this discussion focused on national security agency initiatives related to export control and economic sanctions, as well as foreign investment controls designed to ensure America's competitiveness in the face of changing geopolitics and the rise of adversary nations.
WASHINGTON, D.C. | February 8 | HSI Innovation Lab
Situated in Crystal City, VA and inaugurated in 2019, the HSI Innovation Lab serves as the agency’s central hub for crafting new advanced analytics capabilities, tools, and improved business processes for HSI. It aims to establish a framework for generating innovative solutions by adopting a "field-first" approach. This approach enables special agents and criminal analysts in the field to spearhead solution development, providing insights and feedback to leadership.

EL PASO, TX | February 27 - March 1 | CBP and Border Patrol
A BENS delegation journeyed to El Paso, TX for comprehensive visits and engagements along the Southwest border, facilitated by regional leadership from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP). Members toured border enforcement areas from El Paso to the Ysleta Port of Entry. Additionally, they received briefings and tours with CBP Air and Marine Operations (AMO), where they explored various border enforcement strategies and capabilities.

NORFOLK, VA | March 22 - 24 | U.S. Navy Ship Yards
In response to U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Command’s request, and in alignment with BENS’ navy maintenance support initiatives, a specialized BENS delegation journeyed to the Navy Ship Yards in Norfolk, VA. The delegation met with senior leadership, conducted facility assessments, and evaluated operational processes. This visit served as a pivotal step in advancing strategic endeavors to leverage private sector solutions for addressing critical challenges to U.S. Navy readiness.

WASHINGTON, D.C. METRO AREA | March 27 - 29 | Transportation Security Administration
In response to an outreach from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), BENS Members organized a select delegation to tour various facets of TSA’s mission and operations. This included visits to TSA headquarters, the National Capital Region Coordination Center (NRCC), the Transportation Security Operations Center (TSOC), and comprehensive security operations tours of both Dulles and Reagan airports. The visit concluded with a round-table discussion with TSA Administrator David Pekoske and his executive leadership team to explore opportunities for BENS to support the TSA mission.

COLUMBUS, GA | April 26 - 28 | Fort Moore (Formerly Fort Benning)
BENS members journeyed to Fort Moore, GA (formerly Fort Benning), to interact with the soldiers of the 75th Ranger Regiment and explore the U.S. Army’s Maneuver Center of Excellence. The visit encompassed experiencing a segment of jump training at the Airborne 34’ Tower, engaging in discussions with newly tabbed Rangers, and touring the National Infantry Museum. The visit concluded with attending the graduation ceremony (Rangers in Action) for a new cohort of U.S. Army Rangers.

BALTIC SEA | May | US Coast Guard Cutter Eagle
Every year, BENS receives an invitation to send a member to embark on a voyage aboard the tall ship US Coast Guard Cutter Eagle as it conducts its long-range training mission for Coast Guard Academy cadets. This year, BENS member David McDonald had the opportunity to join the USCG crew for over 10 days as they sailed from Oslo, Norway to Helsinki, Finland.

QUANTICO, VA | May 9 - 12 | FBI Overseas Survival and Awareness Program
A group of BENS Members visited the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia, for three days of immersive training as part of the Bureau’s Overseas Safety and Awareness Program (OSAP). This dynamic curriculum covers firearms, security, tactical medicine, driving, and more, and is required for FBI personnel before deployment abroad. Notably, this was the first time a private sector group was granted access to this training.

NEW YORK CITY AND LONG ISLAND, NY | May 15 - 17 | ATF New York
A BENS delegation explored the ATF New York Field Division, delving into the agency’s mission and capabilities. Members learned about ATF’s use of intelligence and fusion centers to combat violent crime. Highlights included briefings on ATF’s collaborative approach to weaponizing intelligence, along with a visit to the firing range on Long Island for a morning of shooting.
IDAHO FALLS, ID  
June 7 - 9 | DOE, Idaho National Lab

In June, a select BENS group visited Idaho Falls, Idaho, to explore the Idaho Falls National Laboratory (INL), a part of the Department of Energy's National Laboratory System. Members met with senior INL leadership, toured key facilities such as the Advanced Test Reactor (ATR), the Materials and Fuels Complex (MFC), and the Transient Reactor Testing Facility (TREAT), and engaged in briefings focused on new energy generation and storage technologies.

DETROIT AND GRAYLING, MI  
August 7 - 9 | GM Defense and Joint Maneuver Training

At Major General Paul Rogers' invitation, BENS visited Camp Grayling to observe the 2023 Northern Strike Exercise and engaged with Michigan National Guard leadership. The delegation also toured General Motors (GM) Defense headquarters, meeting with senior leadership and learning about electric vehicle platforms and technologies for the US defense sector.

CORONADO ISLAND, SAN DIEGO, CA  
August 22 - 24 | U.S. Naval Special Warfare Command

BENS Members journeyed to San Diego to meet with leadership and operators from US Navy Special Warfare. After briefings from leadership, they toured the training facilities and programs for the U.S. Navy SEALs and Special Warfare Combat Crewman (SWCC). The visit concluded with a tour aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) aircraft carrier, providing a firsthand glimpse into elite training and naval operations.

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ  
September 2023 | Federal Air Marshals Service

In September, BENS Members traveled to Atlantic City, New Jersey, to brief and tour the training facility for the US Federal Air Marshals Service (FAMS). The engagements included visits to the firing range, National Armory, Explosives Range, and simunition training aboard various aircraft training fuselage platforms. Members suggested leveraging private sector AI capability for FAMS recruitment, hiring, and vetting.

TUCSON, AZ  
November 5 - 7 | HSI Arizona SW Border

BENS Members visited Arizona for an in-depth exploration with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) on securing the Southwest border. Tours included the Nogales Port of Entry, with insights into cartel smuggling tunnels. They also met the Shadow Wolves, an all-Native American unit of HSI special agents, on the Tohono O’Odham Nation. The Shadow Wolves showcased their unique investigative and tracking techniques in the reservation border zone.

SAN DIEGO, CA  
November 12-14 | Embark USS Theodore Roosevelt

Departing from San Diego, California, a group of BENS Members traveled by Osprey V-22 to land aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) during maneuvers in the Pacific. Engaging in a distinguished visitor carrier embark program managed by the US Navy, our Members toured and received briefings from sailors and aviators, spent the night aboard, and observed both day and night flight patrols and exercises.
BENS members engaged with the national security enterprise firsthand at multiple global locations. We embarked on four remarkable trips to Poland, Ukraine, Jordan, Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, and the Philippines. During these visits, members received briefings on critical diplomatic, military, and security missions, and had the privilege of meeting with heads of state.

**POLAND AND UKRAINE**

BENS members Jim Evans (CHI), George Knost (TX), and Pete Dordal (DC) journeyed to Poland and Ukraine for the CipherBrief Kyiv Economic and Security Forum. During our time in Kyiv, our delegation interacted with Ukrainian government, defense, and private sector leaders, and visited key sites including the Battle of Antonov Airport, the American University Kyiv, and Boryspil Airport. Our primary goal was to evaluate the status of reconstruction efforts in Ukraine and identify areas where BENS could provide unique support.
INDOPACOM | THE PHILIPPINES

At the request of USINDOPACOM Commander, Admiral John Aquilino, USN, a BENS delegation was dispatched to the Philippines to provide private sector insights aimed at enhancing domain awareness for U.S. strategic defense and economic priorities in the Pacific. The group met with government and defense ministers, including President Bongbong Marcos and the team from the U.S. Embassy Amman.

Additionally, the delegation met with Jordanian Ministers of Environment & Energy and Industry & Labor and visited the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Center (KASOTC) for exhibitions on special operations forces capabilities.

The visit included engagements with the Jordanian Foreign Minister, a dinner with the Jordanian Business Association, briefings with U.S. diplomatic and defense representatives, and a discussion with the Jordanian chapter of the Young Presidents' Association.

To conclude the trip, the delegation enjoyed a memorable day at Petra, traveling by Blackhawk helicopter.

AFRICOM | GERMANY, BENIN, AND COTE D’IVOIRE

In December, General Ray and a BENS delegation traveled to Stuttgart, Germany, for meetings with U.S.AFRICOM leadership, followed by visits to Benin and Cote d’Ivoire in Africa.

While in both countries, the delegation engaged with senior government, military, and private sector leaders, as well as representatives from the U.S. defense and diplomatic missions. Collaborating closely with the U.S. Department of State, U.S.AFRICOM, and other partners, the BENS group compiled a formal report to provide distinctive, business-informed insights and recommendations to various U.S. government stakeholders.

HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

Former BENS President and CEO, General Joseph Votel, led a BENS delegation to Jordan, where they met with His Majesty King Abdullah II. They also held discussions with Jordanian Prime Minister Al Khasawneh, the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, and the team from the U.S. Embassy Amman.

Additionally, the delegation met with Jordanian Ministers of Environment & Energy and Industry & Labor and visited the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Center (KASOTC) for exhibitions on special operations forces capabilities.

The visit included engagements with the Jordanian Foreign Minister, a dinner with the Jordanian Business Association, briefings with U.S. diplomatic and defense representatives, and a discussion with the Jordanian chapter of the Young Presidents' Association.

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We strive to engage our audience from the outset, employing diverse outreach strategies and partnerships to convey our mission effectively.

Our activities are guided by our core values, which transcend partisan divides. Through message customization, performance evaluation, and alliance building, BENS strengthens its impact as a reliable, nonpartisan ally in tackling security issues and safeguarding the United States.

**PURPOSE**

Our brand purpose is to harness private-sector expertise with unwavering determination, adhering to core values such as expertise, non-partisanship, and integrity, to fortify national security in a complex global landscape.

We provide private sector insights, build partnerships, and address security challenges while upholding the highest ethical standards.

**MESSAGING**

BENS employs comprehensive messaging strategies aimed at effectively connecting with our target audience. Through various communication channels and platforms, we promote awareness of our mission and actively engage prospective members and partners in our initiatives.

- **64%**
  - BENS OPEN RATE
- **26%**
  - AVERAGE NON-PROFIT OPEN RATE
- **6%**
  - AVERAGE PRIVATE SECTOR OPEN RATE

**POSITIONING**

We stand as the preeminent organization uniting elite business executives with senior national security counterparts to collaboratively address and resolve the nation’s most pressing security challenges.

**VISION**

We work to be the driving force that empowers senior national security leaders and the nation’s elite business executives to collaboratively shape and fortify the future of national security, forging enduring partnerships, and delivering innovative solutions for a safer and more secure nation.
DIGITAL CAMPAIGNS
BENS employs targeted digital campaigns to reach our audience effectively, leveraging online channels and platforms to raise awareness about its mission and engage potential members and partners.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
BENS collaborates with like-minded organizations, both within and outside the national security sector, to extend our reach, share expertise, and amplify our mission. These partnerships help broaden our network and bring diverse perspectives to the table.

TAILORED MESSAGING
BENS tailors our messaging to resonate with different audiences, whether they are elite business executives, senior national security leaders, or potential partners. This personalized approach maximizes engagement and relevance.

ALIGNMENT WITH BRAND VALUES
BENS ensures that all marketing and promotional efforts reflect our core values of nonpartisanship, expertise, collaboration, integrity, and impactful outcomes. This alignment reinforces our organization’s identity and reputation.

CONTENT CREATION
BENS produces high-quality content that highlights our expertise, insights, and impact in the national security sphere. This content, including reports, articles, and thought leadership pieces, serves to educate, inform, and inspire our audience.

PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS
BENS maintains a strategic PR approach to communicate our achievements, initiatives, and impact to the public and relevant stakeholders. This helps build trust and credibility in our organization’s work.

MEMBER REFERRALS
BENS relies on our existing members to act as ambassadors and refer potential new members who share our organization’s commitment to enhancing national security.

EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION
BENS continually assesses the performance of our marketing initiatives, using metrics and data analytics to ensure alignment with our brand values and mission. This data-driven approach allows for refinement and optimization of marketing strategies.

Top 10 Most Visited BENS.org Pages

1. Homepage
2. Member Log-In
3. Leadership
4. Events
5. Staff
6. About Us
7. Employment/Internships
8. How We Work
9. Become A Member
10. Podcasts
SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

BENS is actively expanding its social media reach, demonstrating significant growth:

Overall Net Audience Growth: Increased by 30.7%, representing the net gain of new audience members minus those lost. This indicates a notable rise in the overall engagement with BENS content and messaging.

Total Audience Increase: Surged by 45.5%, highlighting the number of users following BENS profiles. This substantial increase underscores the growing interest and reach of BENS across various social media platforms.
BENS is deeply thankful for the steadfast commitment of our members to our mission. We remain dedicated to upholding the values of prudence, ethics, and transparency in managing their generous financial support.

We are pleased to announce that BENS has maintained its longstanding tradition of successfully receiving positive unqualified audit opinions for FY2023. Additionally, we are proud to have achieved a 4-Star Charity Navigator rating, the highest possible score from this independent charity evaluator.

Furthermore, we are managing our largest financial reserves in BENS’ history, surpassing the previous record set in 2019. For detailed financial information, including our latest Audited Financial Statements and IRS Form 990s, please visit www.BENS.org.
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