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‘Open for Business’: How does the world’s largest retailer prepare for disasters?

Wal-Mart’s global security chief will discuss lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina during ICHS Lecture on Nov. 16 at Bush Library

COLLEGE STATION – Hurricane Katrina was one of the worst disasters in our nation’s history. But a “culture of preparedness” helped Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. mount an impressive and effective response to the storm. Today, more than one year later, the company is evaluating and perfecting its response . . . and government agencies are learning important lessons from this private company.

Ken Senser, Wal-Mart’s Senior Vice President for Global Security, Aviation and Travel, will bring his company’s perspectives on business preparedness for catastrophe to the George Bush Presidential Library on Thursday, Nov. 16, as part of the 2006-2007 season of the ICHS Lecture Series. The lecture begins at 6 p.m. in the library’s orientation theater. A reception for Mr. Senser starts at 5:30 p.m. in the library rotunda. Both the reception and the lecture are free of charge and open to the public.

The multi-media program will focus on how Wal-Mart’s preparedness efforts enable it to respond to a wide range of emergencies, and what the retailer is doing to prepare its stores, its people and its suppliers for the next disaster.

Mr. Senser will explain how Wal-Mart’s Emergency Operations Center, its company culture, and its relationships within communities before disaster strikes all contribute to a coordinated response.

Ken Senser joined Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., in September 2003 as the Vice President for Global Security. In August 2004, his responsibilities expanded to include Aviation and Travel leading to his promotion in December 2005 to Senior Vice President. Before joining Wal-Mart, Ken served as the Assistant Director of

the FBI for Security. In this role, he established the first division at the FBI focused on security. Prior to that, He served for 16 years at the Central Intelligence Agency, holding various senior management positions.

The Nov. 16 program is co-sponsored by:

- The Integrative Center for Homeland Security at Texas A&M University (<http://homelandsecurity.tamu.edu>).
- The Center for the Management of Information Systems, Mays Business School, Texas A&M (<http://cmis.tamu.edu/web/>).
- The Center for Information Assurance and Security at Texas A&M (<http://cias.tamu.edu/>).

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