

OPERA – fiche sociographique - défense

Prénom, Nom:

Arnold L. Punaro



Contact :

Catégorie : Législatif

Dates de naissance / décès :

10 août 1946

Lieu de naissance :

Augusta, Ga.

Genre : Male

Lieu de résidence (si DC avant l'accession à un poste retenu, avec si possible l'année de l'emménagement à DC):

Mc Lean, VA (en 1997)

Formation :

BA/BS	Bachelor, English, Spring Hill College, Augusta, Alabama 1968
MA/MS	Ma, journalisme, Un. Of Georgia, 1973 ; MA, national security studies, Georgetown Uni., 1979
PhD	
Law degree (JD...)	
Autre	

Profession initiale :

Carrière :

1969 : US Marine Corps, Major General.

1973 – 97 : worked for Senator Sam Nunn in national security matters : director of national security matters for S. Nunn, then Staff Director of Senate Armed Services Committee (8 years), then staff director for the minority (5 years). = début en 84 au SASC ?

Staff dir. for minority of U.S. Senate Armed Svcs. Com., 1983-86, Senate Armed Svcs. Com., 1987-95.

1997 – 2010 : executive vice president at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) : government affairs.

January 2005 : he was named to chair the statutory Commission on the National Guard and Reserves

2010 - : Chief Executive Officer of Punaro Group LLC : DC based firm, gov relations. is currently chairing a DBB task force on reforming the Department of Defense (DoD) acquisition system

Sources biblio/bio, articles, divers.

Arnold L. Punaro

CEO of the Punaro Group, LLC

Arnold Punaro is Chief Executive Officer of the Punaro Group, LLC, a Washington based firm offering business development, strategic planning, federal budget, market analysis, communications, crisis emergency management, government relations, and sensitive operations consulting.

Formerly an executive vice president at \$11B Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) from 1997 to 2010, he was the senior corporate official responsible for SAIC's government affairs, worldwide communications and support operations, to include crisis and risk management, as well as general manager of their Washington operations and supervisor of SAIC's corporate Small and Disadvantaged Business office. In previous SAIC positions, he served as a sector manager, deputy president of the Federal Business Segment, and ran SAIC's Corporate Business Development organization.

On September 1, 2011, Mr. Punaro was named by Secretary of Defense Panetta to chair the newly constituted Reserve Forces Policy Board which serves as an independent advisor to the Secretary of Defense on reserve and guard matters. As a member on the Defense Business Board (DBB), he is currently chairing a DBB task force on reforming the Department of Defense (DoD) acquisition system. In 2010, he chaired a DBB task force for Secretary of Defense Gates on reducing DoD overhead. In January 2005, he was named by Secretary Rumsfeld to chair the Statutory Commission on the National Guard and Reserves established by public law 108-375. The Commission completed their work in April 2008 with most of their 113 recommendations largely adopted by DoD and the Congress. He co-chaired a 2010 review with the Center for New American Security Studies (CNAS) covering the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. In 2008, Mr. Punaro was a task force member for retired U.S. Marine Corps General Jim Jones, then the U.S. Special Envoy for Middle East Regional Security. He also served as a Commissioner on the Statutory Independent Commission on the Iraqi Security Forces which submitted their assessment to Congress on September 6, 2007. Mr. Punaro served as Deputy Executive Director of the U.S. Commission on National Security/21st Century (1998-2001). In 1997, he chaired The Defense Reform Task Force for Secretary of Defense William Cohen.

Mr. Punaro is a Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., and a *W. Genieys, Operationalizing Programmatic Elites Research in America, OPERA : ANR-08-BLAN-0032.*

member of the Center for Naval Analysis Defense Advisory Committee. He serves on the non-profit boards of the Atlantic Council, the National Defense Industrial Association, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, and the University of Georgia's School of Public and International Affairs Board of Visitors. He is on the for-profit boards of Sourcefire, Inc., and DesignLine Corporation.

From 1973 to 1997, Mr. Punaro worked for Senator Sam Nunn in National Security matters. He served as his director of National Security Affairs, and then as Staff Director of the Senate Armed Services Committee (eight years), and Staff Director for the Minority (five years). In his work with Senator Nunn and the Senate Armed Services Committee, he was involved in the formulation of all major defense and intelligence legislation and the oversight and review of all major defense and intelligence activities, civilian and military nominations, for over two decades.

Mr. Punaro has a Masters of Arts degree from the University of Georgia and a Masters of Arts degree from Georgetown University, the latter in national security studies. He was on the Adjunct Faculty of the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University for ten years where he taught an annual graduate level course entitled "National Security Decision Making."

Mr. Punaro is a retired U.S. Marine Corps Major General, he served as the Director of the Marine Corps Reserve, Deputy Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command (Mobilization), and for three years as the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Division. Other assignments were Commanding General, Marine Corps Mobilization Command, and Deputy Commander, Marine Forces Reserve. He served on active duty as an Infantry Platoon Commander in Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star for valor, and the Purple Heart. In December 1990, General Punaro was mobilized for Operation Desert Shield. In December 1993, he completed a tour of extended active duty as Commander of Joint Task Force Provide Promise (Forward) in the former Yugoslavia. He was mobilized for a third time in May 2003 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

General Punaro is the recipient of numerous recognitions including the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service. He received the Marine Corps League's "Iron Mike" Award in 1993 for "exceptionally outstanding service" and "unwavering commitment" for over 20 years to "insuring a strong national defense." He has received the Air Force Association's "Exceptional Service Award," the National Guard "Minuteman Award," the Army's "Outstanding Civilian Service Medal", and was the recipient of the SAIC's "Founders Award" and two special CEO awards. He has over 20 military awards and decorations to include the Distinguished Service Medal.

Source : http://dbb.defense.gov/board_members/arnold_punaro.shtml consulté le 5 juillet 2012

Arnold Punaro is chief executive officer of the Punaro Group, LLC, a Washington-based firm offering government relations, strategic planning, federal budget and market analysis, communications, crisis and emergency management, business development and sensitive operations consulting. Formerly an executive vice president at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) from 1997 to 2010, he was the senior corporate official responsible for SAIC's government affairs, worldwide communications and support operations, to include crisis and risk management, as well as general manager of their Washington operations and supervisor of SAIC's corporate Small and Disadvantaged Business office. In previous SAIC positions, he served as a sector manager, deputy president of the Federal Business Segment, and ran SAIC's Corporate Business Development organization.

Serving as a member on the Defense Business Board (DBB), he is currently chairing a DBB task force for Secretary of Defense Gates on reducing Department of Defense (DoD) overhead. He is a Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies

in Washington, D.C. He serves on the non-profit boards of the Atlantic Council, the National Defense Industrial Association, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, as well as the for-profit boards of Sourcefire, Inc., and DesignLine Corporation. In January 2005, he was named to chair the statutory Commission on the National Guard and Reserves established by public law 108-375. The Commission submitted three reports and completed their work in April, 2008 with most of their recommendations largely adopted by DoD and the Congress. In partnership with the Center for New American Security Studies (CNAS), he is co-chairing a review and will issue a "Report Card" in September 2010 covering the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. In 1997, he chaired The Defense Reform Task Force for Secretary of Defense William Cohen, supporting the Secretary's Defense Reform Initiative. He served as Deputy Executive Director of the U.S. Commission on National Security/21st Century (1998-2001). He also served as a Commissioner on the Statutory Independent Commission on the Iraqi Security Forces which submitted their assessment to Congress on September 6, 2007. In 2008 he was a task force member for retired U.S. Marine Corps General Jim Jones, then the U.S. Special Envoy for Middle East Regional Security.

From 1973 to 1997, Mr. Punaro worked for Senator Sam Nunn in National Security matters. He served as his director of National Security Affairs and then as Staff Director of the Senate Armed Services Committee (eight years) and Staff Director for the Minority (five years). In his work with Senator Nunn and the Senate Armed Services Committee, he was involved in the formulation of all major defense and intelligence legislation and the oversight and review of all major defense and intelligence activities for over two decades.

He has a Masters of Arts degree from the University of Georgia and a Masters of Arts degree from Georgetown University, the latter in national security studies. He was on the Adjunct Faculty of the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University for ten years where he taught an annual graduate level course entitled "National Security Decisionmaking."

A retired U.S. Marine Corps Major General, he was assigned as the Director of the Marine Corps Reserve from May 2001 to October 2003, as Deputy Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command (Mobilization) from August 2000 to May 2001. From 1997 to 2000, he served as the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Division headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana. His previous assignments as a general officer were Commanding General, Marine Corps Mobilization Command, Kansas City, Missouri, and Deputy Commander, Marine Forces Reserve. He served on active duty as an Infantry Platoon Commander in Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star for valor and the Purple Heart. In December 1990, he was mobilized for Operation Desert Shield in Saudi Arabia. In December 1993, he completed a tour of extended active duty as Commander of Joint Task Force Provide Promise (Forward) in the former Yugoslavia. He was mobilized for a third time in May 2003 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Punaro is the recipient of numerous recognitions including the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service in March, 2009. In August 1993, he received the

Marine Corps League's "Iron Mike" Award for "exceptionally outstanding service" and "unwavering commitment" for over 20 years to "insuring a strong national defense." He has received the Air Force Association's "Exceptional Service Award," the National Guard "Minuteman Award," the Army's "Outstanding Civilian Service Medal" and was the recipient of SAIC's "Founders Award" and two special CEO awards. He has over 20 military awards and decorations to include the Distinguished Service Medal.

Source : <http://www.cnas.org/node/4820> (consulté le 6 juillet 2012)

Revolutionizing the military's business affairs

492 words

1 June 1997

Marine Corps Gazette

FMCG

7

Vol. 81, No. 6

English

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SecDef William S. Cohen has announced his formation of a Task Force on Defense Reform. Striving to emulate private sector downsizing, Secretary Cohen asserts:

{T}he American commercial sector has reorganized, restructured, and adopted revolutionary new business and management practices in order to assure its competitive edge in the rapidly changing global marketplace. Now {DoD} must adopt and adapt the lessons of the private sector so our armed forces can maintain their competitive edge in the rapidly changing global security market.

Secretary Cohen has instructed the Task Force to target the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), DoD agencies, and DoD field activities for reforms to include streamlining, consolidation, and possible privatization. The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, Defense Intelligence Agency, Defense Investigative Service, and Advanced Research Projects Agency are prominent among the 25 entities that these 3 categories embrace. The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the military departments have been targeted for similar reforms.

The seven-member Task Force will consist of the following individuals:

BGen Arnold L. Punaro, USMCR, who is tentatively slated to command the 4th Marine Division. He is the senior vice president for corporate development at Science Applications International Corporation and was staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) under former Chairman Sam Nunn. BGen Punaro will chair the Task Force.

Rhet Dawson, President of the Information Technology Industry Council and SASC staff director under former Chairman John Tower.

Michael Bayer, a consultant in businessgovernment relations.

David Chu, RAND's Washington office director and former director of the Congressional Budget Office.

James Locher, former assistant secretary of defense for special operations and lowintensity conflict.

Dov Zakheim, former deputy undersecretary of defense for planning and resources.

Kim Wincup, a vice president of Science Applications International Corporation and staff director of the (then) House Armed Services Committee under former Chairman Les Aspin.

This task force differs from the National Defense Panel (NDP) (see MGG, Apr96, p. 6) in at least two significant ways. Congress mandated the appointment of the NDP, which is tasked with reviewing the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) report and with independently proposing future force structure alternatives to the Congress. The Task Force on Defense Reform was created by and reports directly to Secretary Cohen. Focusing narrowly on the bureaucratic reform issues that the Secretary deemed inadequately addressed in the QDR, its charter is narrower than the NDP's.

Secretary Cohen recently announced that the QDR will both affirm the need "to leap our forces into the future" and reaffirm the two- MRC (major regional contingency) strategy. Whether defense reform will be able to find enough funds to facilitate the simultaneous materialization of these two affirmations in the absence of additional defense funds is a matter of heated debate.

The Task Force will make its recommendations to Secretary Cohen by 1 November 1997. It will also make earlier recommendations to be considered in the Fi99 budget decision process.

U.S. DOD: Brigadier General Arnold Punaro appointed to Reserve Forces Policy Board

490 words

2 July 1997

M2 Presswire

MTPW

English

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M2 PRESSWIRE-2 July 1997-U.S. DOD: Brigadier General Arnold Punaro appointed to Reserve Forces Policy Board (C)1994-97 M2 COMMUNICATIONS LTD

RDATE:010797

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen has announced the designation of United States Marine Corps Reserve Brig. Gen. Arnold L. Punaro, as a member of the Reserve Forces Policy Board effective July 1, 1997. Punaro currently serves as the commanding general, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Command.

The 24-member board was created by Congress in 1952. Acting through the assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, the board serves as the principal policy advisor to the secretary of Defense on reserve component matters. Members include the assistant secretary responsible for reserve affairs from each of the military departments, and active and reserve component general and flag officers representing all Services, including the Coast Guard.

Born in Augusta, Ga., the general's military career spans more than 30 years in both the active service and the USMCR. He saw active service both in Vietnam as an infantry platoon leader, and the Gulf War. In December 1993, he completed a tour of extended active duty as the commander of Joint Task Force Provide Promise (Forward) in command of U.S. Forces service in former Yugoslavia. His military experience includes service in a variety of staff and operations positions, and several command billets before assuming his current position in July 1995.

Punaro holds a bachelor's degree in English from Spring Hill College in Augusta, as well two master's degrees -- one in journalism from the University of Georgia, and the other in National Security Studies from Georgetown University. He has also completed numerous military schools including The Basic School, Civil Affairs Course, Law of War Course, Reserve Components National Security Course and Land Force Staff Planning Course.

His military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", the Purple Heart, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Award with three bronze stars, National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation with Gallantry Cross Color and Palm, Republic of

Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation with Civil Action Color, First Class, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

From 1973 to 1997, he worked for the Senator Sam Nunn in national security matters. He served as his director of National Security Affairs and then as staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee (8 years) and staff director for the Minority (5 years).

In civilian life, Punaro is senior vice president for Corporate Development of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). He is also an adjunct professor in the Graduate School at Georgetown University. He currently resides in McLean, Va.

U.S. DOD: General Officer announcement

67 words

9 January 1998

M2 PRESSWIRE

MTPW

English

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Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen announced today that the President has nominated Brig. Gen. Arnold L. Punaro, United States Marine Corps Reserve, for promotion to the grade of major general.

Punaro is currently assigned as commanding general, 4th Marine Division, New Orleans, La.

DOD ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO GUARD AND RESERVE COMMISSION

224 words

29 April 2005

US Fed News

INDFED

English

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WASHINGTON, April 29 -- The U.S. Department of Defense issued the following press release:

The Department of Defense announced today the appointment of three members of the newly authorized Commission on the National Guard and Reserve.

Arnold L. Punaro, William L. Ball III and Rhett B. Dawson are the first members appointed to this 13-member commission, which will study the roles and missions of the National Guard and other reserve components as well as compensation and benefits.

A retired major general in the Marine Corps Reserves, Punaro served as the Marine Corps Director of Reserve Affairs. He is executive vice president of Science Applications International Corp.

"The charter and work of the commission is timely given the key role of the Guard and Reserves in every aspect of our national security at home and abroad, now and in the future," said Punaro, who will serve as chairman for the commission.

Ball, a former naval officer, served as the secretary of the Navy and assistant secretary of state during the Reagan administration. Dawson is the president and chief executive officer of the Information Technology Industry Council.

The remaining 10 members of the commission will be appointed by the chairmen and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

Military Is Called Unprepared for Attack

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

434 words

1 February 2008

The New York Times

NYTF

Late Edition - Final

23

English

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WASHINGTON -- The United States military is not prepared for a catastrophic attack on the country, and National Guard forces do not have the equipment or training they need for the job, according to a new report.

The study of the military's readiness to respond to a chemical, biological or nuclear weapons attack found "an appalling gap that places the nation and its citizens at greater risk."

The report was released Thursday by the Commission of the National Guard and Reserves, which is charged by Congress to recommend changes in law and policy concerning the those forces.

"Right now we don't have the forces we need, we don't have them trained, we don't have the equipment," the commission's chairman, Arnold L. Punaro, a retired Marine Corps general, said in an interview. "Even though there is a lot going on in this area, we need to do a lot more."

General Punaro added, "There's a lot of things in the pipeline, but in the world we live in, you're either ready or you're not."

Because much of the military is fighting in Afghanistan or Iraq, the commission said, the country has "no reasonable alternative" to relying heavily on the Reserves to supplement the active-duty forces both at home and abroad.

But fully equipping the Guard would cost billions of dollars, General Punaro said, adding that the commission planned to ask the Congressional Budget Office to do a cost analysis.

In perhaps its most controversial recommendation, the panel again said the nation's governors should be given the authority to direct active-duty troops responding to emergencies in their states. That recommendation, when it first surfaced last year, was rebuffed by the military and quickly rejected by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates.

"I believe we're going to wear him down," General Punaro said.

Responding to the report's conclusions, Gen. Victor E. Renuart Jr. of the Air Force, commander of the United States Northern Command, said the Pentagon was putting together a specialized military team to respond to catastrophic events.

General Renuart said that over the next year, specific active-duty Guard and Reserve units would be trained, equipped and assigned to a three-tiered response force totaling about 4,000 troops.

There would be a few hundred first responders, who would be followed by a second wave of about 1,200 troops that would include medical and logistics forces, he said.

The third wave would include aircraft units, engineers and other support forces.

SAIC to Move Headquarters to Tysons in Another Coup for Area

Kafia A. Hosh and V. Dion Haynes

Washington Post Staff Writers

670 words

25 September 2009

The Washington Post

WP

FINAL

A18

English

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Defense contractor Science Applications International Corp. said Thursday it will move its headquarters from San Diego to Tysons Corner, where 17,000 of its workers already are based, becoming the latest of several major companies to relocate to the Washington region in the past two years.

SAIC, the area's fourth-largest private employer, said it wanted to be closer to its biggest client, the federal government. But the move also is expected to benefit Virginia, which has shed 114,200 jobs over the past year, and add momentum to the D.C. region's efforts to position itself as a mecca for corporate headquarters.

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine (D) said the state is offering SAIC \$7 million in incentives to relocate plus paying Fairfax County \$1.5 million to help with road and infrastructure improvements to accommodate the company. For now, SAIC said it will move about 100 people from the West Coast and hire 1,100 people in the science, engineering and technology fields, with more hires to come later.

"We hope to grow between 9 and 12 percent a year, and that means our employee base grows," Arnold L. Punaro, an SAIC executive vice president, said in an interview following a news conference in the building near Leesburg Pike that will serve as headquarters.

SAIC provides information technology consulting to a variety of federal agencies. Its work includes analyzing data for unmanned aerial vehicles flying over combat zones, developing new energy sources, providing security at major waterways in the United States and upgrading Army weaponry.

The 40-year-old company, long a high-profile player in the contracting industry, joins CSC, Volkswagen of America and Hilton Hotels in recently establishing corporate headquarters in the area.

Over the past few years, SAIC has gone through some major changes, shifting from an employee-owned to a publicly traded company in October 2006 and replacing its chief executive in June with the head of rival BAE Systems. Now it is grappling with the possibility that the Obama administration could cut back contracting work.

With the prospect of competition for government work intensifying, analysts said it makes sense for SAIC, which reported more than \$10 billion in revenue last year, to be located in the Washington region.

"I would think their logistics business would get cut, but their high-end [information technology] work is probably fine," said Alex P. Hamilton, an analyst at New York-based investment banking firm Jesup & Lamont. "They're in a good position if Defense Department budgets get cut, but there's more haze on the horizon."

The move "is good for business. San Diego is a lot farther," said Joseph A. Vafi, managing director of equity research at Jefferies. "The clients like [the contractors] to be closer rather than farther away."

Economic development officials and labor experts said they think the move could have broad implications for the region, which experienced a net loss of 50,000 jobs during the past year.

Besides hiring more than 1,000 workers, company officials said they intend to spend \$25 million to redevelop buildings on their 18-acre campus, build a bridge to connect it with a planned Silver Line Metro station, and purchase furniture and computer equipment.

"Northern Virginia lost 13,000 jobs [during the past year, and the hiring] will be a help," said Don Lillywhite, research director at the Virginia Employment Commission. He added that SAIC could draw subcontractors and other related businesses to the area.

With the government playing a stronger role in business and the economy, officials at the organizations that market the region nationally say they think more companies will be drawn here.

"This sends a message to other CEOs of multinational companies, validating this as the place to be for corporate headquarters," said Matt Erskine, executive director of the Greater Washington Initiative.

Commission Reports on Strengthening America's Defenses

849 words

1 March 2007

Department of Defense Documents

DODDOC

English

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American Forces Information Service News Articles

WASHINGTON, March 1, 2007 -- Changes are needed to pull together the nation's security team and break down "institutional stove pipes" between agencies, the chairman of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves reported to Congress today.

Initially the commission was to report on the proposed "National Guard Empowerment Act" which aimed to increase the authority of National Guard leaders. Instead, the commission broadened its report -- Strengthening America's Defenses in the New Security Environment -- to include DoD, U.S. Northern Command, the departments of Homeland Security and Defense, and state governors. . . The broadened report will help solve problems the reserves now face, said retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Arnold L. Punaro, commission chairman. . . The primary problem, Punaro said, is that the different agencies involved, each with a stake in homeland defense, don't work well enough together. "You need everybody on the same team. We don't have that right now. We've got stovepipes," Punaro said. . . "In the age we're in right now, with the threats we face, particularly here in the homeland, we cannot use this sandlot pick-up team approach," he said. . . The report contained 26 findings and 23 recommendations in six general areas. Only eight recommendations would require changes in legislation, Punaro said. . . Defense Department officials first need to update the department's laws, regulations, policies and procedures to accommodate a ready, operational reserve. . . "DoD has declared that we have this operational reserve, but they haven't made the changes necessary to ensure that such an operational reserve is sustainable," Punaro said. . . Since September 11, 2001, more than 550,000 Guard and Reserve troops have been called to active duty. Given current conditions, "it is not sustainable," he said. . . For example, the commission reported that DoD does not now budget or program for the Guard's civil-support missions because the agency sees them as a derivative of its wartime mission. . . But, homeland defense missions are not a subset of warfighting requirements, Punaro said. "That is a fatally flawed assumption. In these areas, we are not ready. We are not prepared," he said. . . In addition, Northern Command should be the advocate for civil-support requirements, Punaro said.

To give the Guard a bigger voice at the DoD level, the commission supports making the Guard Bureau chief's position a four-star billet and designating it as a senior advisor to the chairman of the joint chiefs, the report states. The commission reported that it does not support giving the chief of the National Guard Bureau a seat at the table with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. , , The report also calls for one of the two top positions at NORTHCOM to be filled by a National Guard or Reserve officer. , , One of the most critical issues DoD faces is equipping its reserve forces, Punaro said. , , "The equipment readiness of our Guard and Reserve today is totally unacceptable," he said. "Right now in the National Guard, for the units that remain here in the continental United States, 88 percent of those units are not ready due to equipment deficiencies." , , "This is a terrible situation and needs to be corrected," Punaro said. , , Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates told the Guard's adjutants general this week that, in the next two fiscal year budgets, his department is asking for \$9 billion to reset and reequip the Guard. Many units face severe shortages after returning from deployments with either missing or broken equipment. , , "Reconstituting and resetting the Guard and Reserve C is the top priority for the Department of Defense," Gates said. , , Gates' goal is a National Guard that is fully manned, trained and equipped and capable of taking on a range of traditional and non-traditional missions at home and abroad, he said. , , Governors should also have a say in how their resources are used and should command any federal resources coming into their states for civil-support missions, the report states. It recommends convening a bipartisan council of 10 governors, appointed by the president, to meet and advise the defense secretary and other senior officials. , , In response to the report, Gates has convened a senior-level working group headed by Thomas F. Hall, the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, to review the commission's recommendations. The group of senior DoD civilian and military leaders will assess the impact of the commission recommendations and suggest any needed changes to the defense secretary by April 2. , , "I believe the department will agree with the commission on many issues," Gates said. "For those recommendations that require legislation, I will forward a proposal to the Congress this year. , , "Whatever the changes, it is important that we do not undermine the total force concept, where the Army and Air Guard are considered fully integrated parts of their service branches," Gates said. , , The commission's final report, due to Congress in January 2008, will provide a more comprehensive look at reserve-component mobilization, pay, employer and family support issues. ,

Defense questions conflicts in contracts

by Walter Pincus

800 words

1 February 2010

The Washington Post

WP

FINAL

A15

English

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A Defense Department inspector general's report has stirred debate at the Pentagon over what constitutes a conflict of interest after the report determined that Pentagon test agencies gave \$91 million in contracts for advice and assistance to corporations that helped develop the system.

The corporations had been awarded \$8.7 billion to develop the Army's Future Combat Systems.

The report, which was released last week, says that McLean-based Science Applications International Corp. received \$2.3 billion to help develop FCS and \$25.8 million "for advisory and assistance services" to the FCS program office and the Defense and Army offices that tested elements of the system.

The inspector general says that the advisory service contracts won by SAIC conflicted with Defense regulations, but the department's office of operational test and evaluation and the Army's test command disagreed, based on their interpretations of the regulations.

Arnold L. Punaro, SAIC's executive vice president and a senior fellow on Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates's Defense Business Board, said the contracting agencies knew SAIC was a major contractor. The company reviewed whether it was in violation and decided it was "comfortable" that it was not.

As for the inspector general's report, Punaro said that it opened up questions about gray areas that have emerged as the Pentagon contracts out activities once performed by the military or government employees.

"Companies are looking for brighter lines" defining what contractors can do and what can be done only by government employees, he said.

Although Gates canceled the FCS last year, he kept elements of a family of high-tech ground and aerial vehicles, weapons and communication networks to continue modernizing the Army.

A hotline complaint triggered the inspector general's investigation. The complainant said that SAIC was bidding on a contract to provide advice on an FCS element and that SAIC had not acknowledged the importance of its role in FCS.

The inspector general's report, which was signed by Mary L. Ugone, deputy inspector general for auditing, supports the allegations. According to the report, in the case of an Army test and evaluation command contract, SAIC helped develop the threat representation used to test FCS, which the company also helped develop.

When an Army contracting officer raised that objection, SAIC disagreed, saying that its work did not present "a perceived or actual conflict of interest" because the company "does not test or evaluate any system" and only supports the "activities that support test and evaluation."

The inspector general commended the Army contracting officer who raised the issue. The inspector general also challenged SAIC's claims that it reviewed all contract offerings on its own and does not bid where it sees a conflict.

In one case, the inspector general's report said that SAIC "understated the company's involvement in FCS development" and that the government agency did not investigate whether there was a conflict.

The reason given was that SAIC had such advisory contracts earlier for the FCS, but the inspector general's report says that was before SAIC had become key in the system's development.

The Defense Department's director of operational test and evaluation disagreed with the inspector general's conclusion, saying that the SAIC advisory tasks did not directly relate to a single system or directly involve developing test requirements, test planning or evaluation.

The inspector general said that although there was no direct conflict, there was questionable judgment, noting that the contract solicitation said it excluded as bidders those "who have significant involvement in the development of the [Defense Department] systems that are under, or will be under [director of operational test and evaluation] oversight."

As a result of the report, the inspector general said, the office managing what was the FCS system agreed to not hire SAIC or any other system developer for advisory and assistance services when it can be avoided. The Army test command said it would avoid conflicts and had no plans to hire SAIC in the current fiscal year.

The director of operational test and evaluation was less responsive, saying only that he would determine whether it is appropriate to hire for advisory services a contractor with significant involvement in a system he would test or evaluate.

Punaro described what was going on as a "food fight between government contracting agencies" and the inspector general.

He also said that Ash B. Carter, the Defense undersecretary for acquisition, technology and logistics, has been dealing with new conflict rules required under the weapons systems acquisition reform act passed by Congress last year.

The first drafts were to be due late this month but have been postponed until late spring.

pincusw@washpost.com

<http://www.washingtonpost.com> [<http://www.washingtonpost.com>]

Sources additionnelles :
First Street, WHO's Who