

## Bio – Arnold Punaro

Arnold Punaro is chief executive officer of The Punaro Group, LLC, a Washington-based firm he founded in 2010 specializing in federal budget and market analysis, business strategy and capture, acquisition due diligence, government relations, communications, sensitive operations, business risk analysis and compliance, and crisis management. He consults for a broad array of Fortune 100 companies and was recognized by *Defense News* as one of the 100 most influential individuals in U.S. Defense.

In November 2015, Mr. Punaro completed a two-year term as the Chairman of the National Defense Industrial Association, the country's largest defense industry association with over 1,600 corporate and 91,000 individual members. He is Chairman of the Reserve Forces Policy Board, which serves as an independent advisor to the Secretary of Defense on Reserve and National Guard matters.

He is a retired Marine Corps Major General who has also served as the executive vice president of an \$11 billion technology and professional services firm, and as the staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee, among other positions.

Mr. Punaro is the author of the book *On War and Politics: The Battlefield Inside Washington's Beltway*, that was published by the Naval Institute Press in October 2016.

As an executive vice president at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) from 1997 to 2010, Mr. Punaro served as a sector manager, deputy president of the Federal Business Segment, and led SAIC's Corporate Business Development organization. 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.

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.

A retired U.S. Marine Corps Major General, Mr. Punaro 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. In December 1990, he was mobilized for Operation Desert Shield. In December 1993, he completed a tour of 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. 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.

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."

He was born and raised in Macon, Georgia where he graduated from Mount de Sales Academy (Georgia). He is the son of the late Angelo J. Punaro, a civil engineer, and Annina Benedetto Punaro, a teacher. His father and mother were 2nd generation Americans whose parents immigrated from Italy.

