



DEFENSE

Norton A. Schwartz

BUSINESS EXECUTIVES for National Security is a nonpartisan group of some 400 corporate leaders who, for three decades, have worked to apply successful business practices to national security problems. It championed the military base realignment and closure system starting in the 1980s, for instance, as well as later proposals to spend more on military combat capabilities than on support functions, the so-called “tooth-to-tail” ratio. The group also has expanded its work to other agencies such as the departments of State and Homeland Security. Its new president and CEO is former Air Force chief of staff and retired Gen. **Norton A. Schwartz**.

Schwartz, 61, was the Air Force’s top of-

ficer from 2008 to 2012 and says he got to know the business group, or BENS, while commanding the U.S. Transportation Command from 2005 to 2008, including organizing a distribution network for Afghanistan.

BENS staff take member executives to meetings around the country with military officers and Defense Department, Homeland Security and intelligence officials — typically at the assistant secretary level and above — who then partner with the organization on particular projects.

The efforts include helping the military come up with ways to rein in pension costs and a cybersecurity project with the National Security Agency and the Department of

Homeland Security. It avoids military policy. “We are careful about inserting ourselves into the political debate,” says Schwartz.

High-ranking officers often work for big defense contractors after they retire, but Schwartz says he wanted to work on mission-driven challenges. He has, however, joined the boards of Aurora Flight Sciences Corp., a drone designer and manufacturer, and Wesco Aircraft Holdings Inc., an aerospace logistics and supply chain company.

Eric Eversole

AFTER SIX YEARS as an attorney adviser at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, **Eric Eversole** is executive director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s veteran employment project, Hiring Our Heroes.

Eversole has been a judge advocate general with the Navy for 15 years — since 2001 as a reservist — and likens his new role to his time in the military. “As a JAG officer,” he says, “much of what you do is assist servicemembers and their families with things that are challenging for them, whether it’s pre-deployment legal issues, car loans with high interest rates or other things that are impacting their ability to accomplish the mission.”

The chamber initiative has hosted nearly 600 hiring fairs for veterans and their family members looking for work, in addition to workshops on resume writing and interview skills, among other topics.

Before the energy commission, Eversole, 41, was a litigation attorney in the Justice Department’s voting section. In 2010, he founded the Military Voter Protection Project, a nonprofit that promotes voting rights for servicemembers.

— KRISTIN COYNER

ASSOCIATIONS

Dan Berger

WITH THIS SUMMER’S retirement of **Fred Becker** as CEO of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, chief lobbyist **B. Dan Berger** has been promoted to succeed him at a crucial time when credit unions are grappling with the new federal regulatory landscape of the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulatory law.

Berger’s old job has been filled by **Carrie Hunt**, promoted from vice president of regulatory affairs to senior vice president of government affairs and general counsel.

As the credit unions’ lead lobbyist the past seven years, Berger led the association’s efforts to help shape the 2010 law, including opposing the creation of a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau with credit union oversight. “Credit unions didn’t cause the financial crisis,” he says. “But we sure feel the impact of the rules that are being promulgated by the CFPB and others.”

Big banks, Berger contends, have staffs and stables of attorneys to handle regulatory challenges, including new CFPB mortgage rules that go into effect next year. “Our members might have one compliance attorney,” he says, “but they have to read the same amount of pages and understand the same rules as the large institutions do.”

To better help member credit unions, the association has hired more attorneys to provide advice on compliance with the new regulations while also developing a digital learning system to train credit union employees on how to comply.

Berger, 47, was previously a lobbyist for America’s Community Bankers. He was a chief of staff for Florida Republican Rep. **Katherine Harris** and an insurance lobbyist in the Florida legislature.



Joe Quinn

AFTER SEVEN AND A HALF YEARS at PR giant Edelman working for clients such as the American Petroleum Institute and Wal-Mart, **Joe Quinn** is now vice president of public affairs at the Aluminum Association, a new role to promote the industry among the media and Washington officials.

Two years ago the aluminum producers and recyclers hired a new president, lobbyist and former Senate aide **Heidi Biggs Brock**, who wants the industry to do more to stand out, even as its global outlook dims because of excess capacity from delayed plant closures in China and Russia.

Quinn says there’s an opportunity to highlight the industry’s sustainability efforts and its economic impact despite declining prices due from oversupply. “Given where the global marketplace is, there’s no time like the present to elevate the profile,” says Quinn, who will pitch industry stories to the media targeted toward environmental groups, business leaders and elected officials.

Before Edelman, Quinn, 37, worked at communications agencies Xenophon Strategies Inc. and Ketchum.

— KRISTIN COYNER

ADVOCACY

Kirsten A. Sloan

AFTER FOUR YEARS managing health policy issues for the National Partnership for Women and Families, **Kirsten A. Sloan** is now senior policy director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

The two organizations have been frequent coalition partners, Sloan says, including on an initiative for implementation of the 2010 health care overhaul.

Sloan and her policy team write analyses and statements for cancer advocates around health care policy, tobacco control, nutrition and cancer research funding issues. “We want to make the health care system better for people living with cancer and those who have survived cancer,” she says, “but also helping to eradicate the disease.”

Sloan previously was director of federal health issues for AARP and a legislative aide to Rep. **Norm Dicks**, a Washington Democrat who left the House last year.



Rhett Buttle, Grant Lahmann, Elliott Long

THE SMALL BUSINESS MAJORITY organized efforts in 2010 to help pass President **Barack Obama**’s health care overhaul, and three years later the group works on a variety of issues including energy, immigration and labor law. It recently increased its staff based in eight states and in Washington, where the group promoted **Rhett Buttle** from director of national outreach and government affairs to vice president for external affairs, advanced outreach manager **Grant Lahmann** to outreach director and hired **Elliott Long** as outreach coordinator and administrative assistant.

“We are sort of at an increased level of prominence with the Hill and with the White House because of our growth in the field,” says Buttle, 28, who was an aide to Republican Gov. **Arnold Schwarzenegger** of California, worked on Obama’s 2008 campaign and directed special projects for George Washington University President **Steven Knapp**. “There’s a higher level of advocacy helping small-business owners highlight their voices.”

Lahmann, 29, has worked on campaigns in Washington state, been a legislative assistant to Democratic Sen. **Patty Murray** of Washington and was general director in Virginia for Obama’s campaign last year.

Long, 22, was an intern at the White House legislative office.

LOBBYING

Gabriela Domenzain

THE RABEN GROUP, a lobbying firm started by former Clinton administration assistant attorney general **Robert Raben**, has hired President **Barack Obama**’s 2012 campaign director for Hispanic press, **Gabriela Domenzain**, as a principal.

“Our portfolio is overwhelm-



ingly focused on helping non-profits and progressive causes,” she says. Domenzain, 37, started as a media aide for the National Council of La Raza in the early 2000s. She was a producer for the Spanish-language network Univision and a communications director for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Jennifer Porter Gore

AFTER TWO YEARS as communications director for Minnesota Democratic Rep. **Keith Ellison**, **Jennifer Porter Gore** is now a senior adviser at Giesta Ractalto Solutions, a lobbying firm started by two aides to former Rep. **Barney Frank** of Massachusetts, **Maria E. Giesta** and **Joseph A. Ractalto**.

Frank was the senior Democrat on the Financial Services

Committee, where Gore was communications director from 2002 to 2005. Before that, she was a lobbyist for the Credit Union National Association. She also has been communications director for the House Homeland Security Committee, communications policy director for the Project on Government Oversight and a lobbyist for the Maryland and District of Columbia Credit Union Association.

TOP: BILL CLARK/CQ ROLL CALL



TRANSPORTATION

Christian Deschauer

TRANSURBAN GROUP, an Australian toll road developer whose projects include I-495 express lanes in Northern Virginia, has hired **Christian Deschauer**, a vice president of government relations for the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, as its first full-time lobbyist and government relations director. Transurban’s interests at the federal level

include continuation of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, whose low-cost credit helped pay for the company’s Beltway express lanes and would help in building similar lanes on I-95 in Virginia. Congress increased support for TIFIA in last year’s surface transportation law, which expires in 2014.

Before joining the chamber, Deschauer, 30, was an aide to Fairfax County Supervisor **Pat Herrity** and Rep. **Thomas M. Davis III**, a Virginia Republican in the House from 1995 to 2008.

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