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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

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MM-117-118

Date: May 6, 2022

Background Memo Full Committee Hearing:

Nominations (The Honorable Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large).

On May 10, 2022, at 2:30 in SD-106 and via videoconference, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a hearing to consider the nomination of The Honorable Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

Attached are the following:

- List of Recent Incumbents
- Biographical Summary
- Functions and Responsibilities

For more information, please contact:

Staffer (majority): Nury Gambarrotti, (202) 340-4185; (minority): Katie Chaudoin, (202) 655-6721

I. List of Recent Incumbents

Coordinator for Counterterrorism,
with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large
Incumbents for the Last Ten Years

Nathan Sales 2017 – 2021

Tina S. Kaidanow 2014 – 2016

Daniel Benjamin 2009 – 2012

II. Biographical Summary

BIOGRAPHIC SUMMARY (Highlights)

NAME: Elizabeth Holzhall Richard

POSITION FOR WHICH CONSIDERED: Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large

PRESENT POSITION: Senior Fellow on Detail to Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

LEGAL RESIDENCE: Virginia

FOREIGN SERVICE GRADE: Career Minister

OFFICE ADDRESS: U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

DATE/PLACE OF BIRTH: September 1, 1959
Evergreen Park, Illinois

MARITAL STATUS: Widow

NAME OF SPOUSE: None

NAMES OF CHILDREN: None

EDUCATION: Southern Methodist University, B.A., 1981, Dallas, Texas
Southern Methodist University Law School, J.D., 1984, Dallas, Texas
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Defense College, 2001-2002, Non-degree Program, Rome, Italy
National War College, M.S., 2007 – 2008, Washington, D.C.

MILITARY SERVICE: None

FOREIGN LANGUAGES: Italian
Spanish
French
Portuguese

EXPERIENCE:

2020 – Present Senior Fellow on Detail to Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

2016 – 2020 Ambassador to Lebanon

2013 – 2016 Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

2013 Faculty member, National War College, Washington, D.C.

2010 – 2013 Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Sanaa, Yemen

2008 – 2010 Border Coordinator, U.S. Embassy Islamabad, Pakistan

2007 – 2008 Student, National War College, Washington, D.C.

2006 – 2007 Director for Counter-Narcotics, Law Enforcement and Rule of Law Programs, U.S. Embassy Kabul, Afghanistan

2005 – 2006 Deputy Director, Office of Asia, Africa and Europe, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

2003 – 2005 Deputy to the Ambassador for War Crimes Issues, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D. C.

2002 – 2003 Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

2001 – 2002 Student, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Defense College, Rome, Italy

1997 – 2001 Political Officer, U.S. Embassy Rome, Italy

1994 – 1997 Special Assistant to the Ambassador, U.S. Embassy Bangkok, Thailand

1993 – 1994 Thai Language Training, Foreign Service Institute, Department of State, Arlington, Virginia

1991 – 1993 Desk Officer for Czechoslovakia, Office of South Central Europe, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

1990 – 1991 Watch Officer, Operations Center, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

1988 – 1990 Rotational Officer, U.S. Embassy Singapore

1986 – 1988 Consular Officer, U.S. Consulate General Guayaquil, Ecuador

1986 Junior Officer training, Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State, Arlington, Virginia

1984 – 1985 Attorney, Texas Instruments, Dallas, Texas

1982 – 1984 Part-time Intern, Moseley, Jones, Allen and Fuquay, LLP, Dallas, Texas

HONORS/AWARDS:

Presidential Meritorious Service Award: 2018
Senior Foreign Service Performance Awards: 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014
Superior Honor Awards: 2010, 2007, 2001, 1993, 1991

PUBLICATIONS:

None

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS:
None

III. Functions and Responsibilities

Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large

Agency: U.S. Department of State

Position Summary: The incumbent serves as an advisor to the Secretary and other Department officials on counterterrorism policy, strategy, threats, and operations. The Coordinator acts as the Secretary's representative in international meetings and forges partnerships with non-state actors, multilateral organizations, and foreign governments to advance the counterterrorism objectives and national security of the United States. The incumbent takes a leading role in developing coordinated policies and strategies to defeat terrorists abroad and in securing the cooperation of international partners. In all activities, the Coordinator is guided by the National Security Strategy and the National Strategy for Combating Terrorism. The Coordinator directs the Department's counterterrorism programs and manages the Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT). The incumbent coordinates closely with the six regional Assistant Secretaries, the Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs, the Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security, the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, the Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research, the Assistant Secretary for International Security and Non-Proliferation, the Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs, the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, the Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs, the Legal Advisor, the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, and with senior officials from across the interagency.