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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY
MM-117-119

Date: May 6, 2022

Background Memo Full Committee Hearing:

Nominations (The Honorable Alexander Mark Laskaris, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chad).

On May 10, 2022, a 2:30 pm in SD-106 and via videoconference, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a hearing to consider the nomination of The Honorable Alexander Mark Laskaris, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chad.

Attached are the following:

- List of Recent Incumbents
- Biographical Summary
- Certificate of Demonstrated Competence

For more information, please contact:

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

I. List of Recent Incumbents

Ambassador to the Republic of Chad Incumbents for the Last Ten Years

Geeta Pasi	2016 – 2018
James Knight	2013 – 2016
Mark M. Boulware	2010 – 2013

II. Biographical Summary

BIOGRAPHIC SUMMARY (Highlights)

NAME: Alexander Mark Laskaris

POSITION FOR WHICH CONSIDERED: U.S. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Chad

PRESENT POSITION: Senior Advisor, Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State, Washington, D.C.

LEGAL RESIDENCE: Washington, D.C.

FOREIGN SERVICE RANK: Minister-Counselor

OFFICE ADDRESS: AF/EX Room 3719
Department of State
Washington DC 20520

DATE/PLACE OF BIRTH: January 11, 1967
Monterrey, California

MARITAL STATUS: Single

NAME OF SPOUSE: N/A

NAMES OF CHILDREN: None

EDUCATION: US Army War College, Washington, D.C., 2009, M.A.

Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., 1985-1989, B.A.

American Community Schools of Athens, Athens, Greece, 1980-1985

MILITARY SERVICE: None

FOREIGN LANGUAGES: French
Portuguese
Greek
Kurdish
Albanian

Spanish

HONORS/AWARDS:

Meritorious Honor Awards (1993, 2001)
Superior Honor Awards (1999, 2000, 2002, 2005)
Senior performance awards (2011, 2012, 2015, 2016)
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joint Civilian
Distinguished Service Award (2019)
Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award (2021)

EXPERIENCES:

2021 – Present Senior Advisor, Bureau of African Affairs,
Department of State, Washington, D.C.

2019 – 2021 U.S. Department of State Faculty, National War
College

2016 – 2019 Deputy to the Commander for Civil Military
Engagements, United States Africa Command,
Stuttgart Germany

2012 – 2015 Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea

2010 – 2012 Consul General, Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq

2008 – 2009 Team Leader, Mosul Provincial Reconstruction Team,
Ninewa Province, Iraq

2005 – 2007 Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Pristina,
Kosovo

2003 – 2005 Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Bujumbura,
Burundi

2002 – 2003 Policy Planning Staff, Department of State

1999 – 2002 Political Advisor, U.S. Mission to the United Nations
New York, New York

1997 – 1999 Political Section Chief, U.S. Embassy Luanda, Angola

1996 – 1997 Desk Officer for Rwanda and Burundi, Office of
Central African Affairs, Department of State

1995 – 1996 Observer, Multinational Force and Observers, Sinai,
Egypt

1993 – 1995 Political Officer, U.S Embassy Gaborone, Botswana

1991 – 1993 Vice Consul, U.S. Embassy Monrovia, Liberia

1989 – 1990 English and Mathematics Teacher, St. Boniface High
School, Galeshewe, South Africa

PUBLICATIONS:

None

ORGANIZATIONAL
AFFILIATIONS:

Member, American Foreign Service Association
Member, Washington Area Bicycling Association

III. Certificate of Demonstrated Competence

REPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE

SUBJECT: Ambassadorial Nomination: Certificate of
 Demonstrated Competence -- Foreign Service
 Act, Section 304(a)(4)

POST: Republic of Chad

CANDIDATE: Alexander Mark Laskaris

Alexander Laskaris is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, with over three decades of experience. Currently he is serving as a Senior Advisor in the Bureau of African Affairs, and he has spent almost twenty years working specifically on African issues in a variety of roles including as the Deputy to the Commander for Civil Military Engagements at the United States Africa Command and as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea. He has also served as Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Bujumbura, Burundi, the Political Section Chief of the U.S. Embassy in Angola and Desk Officer for Rwanda and Burundi in the State Department's Office of Central African Affairs. His demonstrated success as a leader, coupled with his extensive knowledge of Africa in terms of both policy and operational issues, makes him a well-qualified candidate to serve as Ambassador to the Republic of Chad.

Over his career Mr. Laskaris has also served on the faculty of the National War College, as Consul General in Ebril, Iraq, and he was Team Leader of the Mosul Province Reconstruction Team in Ninewa Province, Iraq. Other assignments include as Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Pristina, Kosovo, and as a member of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff. Still earlier he was part of the Multinational Force and Observers peacekeeping team in the Sinai and also held assignments in Botswana and Liberia.

Mr. Laskaris earned a B.A degree from Georgetown University, and an M.A. degree from the U.S. Army War College in Washington, D.C. He is the recipient of multiple performance awards from the Department of State, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joint Civilian Distinguished Service Award and the Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award from the National Defense University. His foreign languages include French, Portuguese, Greek, Kurdish, Albanian and Spanish.