

REPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE

RELEASED IN FULL

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

POST: Chad

CANDIDATE: James Alcorn Knight

James Knight is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. A former Chief of Mission and two-time Deputy Chief of Mission in Africa, he will bring strong leadership and extensive knowledge of current U.S. policy in Africa to a mission confronting social and political divisions and pressing humanitarian needs. He also will bring interagency development experience to effectively engage the Chadian government on vital economic reforms. With his ability in French and strong outreach skills, he will be prepared to press the government to develop democratic institutions. Given the isolation of the mission in Chad, Mr. Knight's reputation for the mentoring and development of his staff will ensure strong morale.

Mr. Knight currently serves as Assistant Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Previously, he served as Ambassador to Benin (2009-2012), Director, Office of East African Affairs (2007-2009), Provincial Reconstruction Team Leader, Mosul, Iraq (2006-2007), Deputy Chief of Mission in both Angola (2004-2006) and Cape Verde (2001-2004), Desk Officer in the Office of East African Affairs (1998-2000), Political Officer in both Madagascar (1995-1998) and Gambia (1993-1995), and as General Services Officer in Nigeria (1991-1993). Mr. Knight served for several years as a rural development expert for USAID in Niger, a researcher in Cameroon, an Adjunct Professor at the University of Rochester, and a writer for several international publications. He served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and as a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Mr. Knight earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Arts in Anthropology from Wichita State University, and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. He speaks French and Portuguese. Mr. Knight has received three individual Superior Honor Awards, four individual Meritorious Honor Awards and four Senior Foreign Service Performance Awards.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer