

REPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE

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

POST: Republic of Colombia

CANDIDATE: Kevin Whitaker

Kevin Whitaker is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister-Counselor. A talented leader who has consistently taken on key positions of increasingly greater responsibility, he is currently a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs in the Department of State. Known for his analytical skills, sound judgment and extensive expertise in Western Hemisphere political affairs, Mr. Whitaker will bring essential skills to the task of furthering bilateral relations with the Government of Colombia, a key U.S. partner in Latin America.

Previously, Mr. Whitaker served in the Department of State as Director, Office of Andean Affairs (07/2008-09/2011), Deputy Executive Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State (07/2007-07/2008), Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Caracas, Venezuela (09/2005-07/2007), Office Director, Office of Cuban Affairs (08/2002-09/2005), Deputy Director, Office of Cuban Affairs (07/2000-08/2002), Deputy Director, Office of Mexican Affairs (08/1999-07/2000), Political Counselor, U.S. Embassy Managua, Nicaragua (08/1996-08/1999), Desk Officer, Office of Western European Affairs (8/1994-08/1996), Political-Military Officer, U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa, Honduras (05/1991-08/1994), Desk Officer, Office of Central American Affairs (08/1988-05/1991), Political Officer, U.S. Embassy Kingston, Jamaica (08/1986-08/1988), Political Officer, Bureau of Inter-American Affairs (09/1985-08/1986), Foreign Affairs Coordinator, Bureau of Intelligence and Research (07/1983-09/1985), Political Officer, Bureau of Intelligence and Research (07/1981-11/1982), and Consular Officer, U.S. Embassy London, United Kingdom (01/1980-06/1981).

Mr. Whitaker earned a B.A. at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia in 1979. He has received numerous awards from the Department of State, including the Secretary's Award for Public Outreach, four Superior Honor Awards, three Meritorious Honor Awards, a Group Superior Honor Award, four Group Meritorious Honor Awards, and six Senior Foreign Service Performance Awards. He speaks French and Spanish.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer