

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: Peru

CANDIDATE: Brian A. Nichols

Brian A. Nichols, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, has over two decades of experience in challenging assignments. As Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), Mr. Nichols oversees counter-narcotics and rule of law programs and policies that operate in 85 countries with an active assistance portfolio of some \$5 billion. He previously served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Colombia and ably led the mission of over 4,000 employees.

He has successfully promoted trade, negotiated multilateral agreements within the United Nations and Organization of American States, and advanced the respect for human rights and democracy. With experience in North, Central, and South America, as well as the Caribbean, his varied background will be relevant as he strengthens our relationship with Peru and helps advance economic growth, good governance and the rule of law. He is an energetic and savvy manager.

Mr. Nichols has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the INL Bureau (2010-2011), Deputy Chief of Mission in Bogota, Colombia (2007-2010), Director of the Office of Caribbean Affairs (2004-2007), Political Counselor in Jakarta, Indonesia (2001-2004), Political Officer in Mexico City (1998-2001), International Relations Officer in the Office of UN Political Affairs (1996-1998), El Salvador Desk Officer in the Office of Central American Affairs (1994-1996), Staff Officer in the Executive Secretariat (1993-1994), Political Officer in San Salvador, El Salvador (1991-1993), and Consular Officer in Lima, Peru (1989-1991).

Mr. Nichols earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Tufts University. He is fluent in Spanish. He is the recipient of a Presidential Award for Meritorious Service, five individual Superior Honor Awards, and five Senior Foreign Service Performance Awards.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer