

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type "None" or "Not Applicable" if a question does not apply to the nominee. Return printed answers to Committee. Begin each section (i.e., "A", "B", etc.) on a new sheet of paper.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used):

Manson Kevin Brown

2. Position to which nominated:

Assistant Secretary for Environmental Observation and Prediction, Department of Commerce

3. Date of Nomination: January 29, 2015

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

Office:

Residence:

5. Date and Place of Birth: July 23, 1956; Washington, DC

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

Spouse: Herminia Banez Brown

Children: Manson Justin Brown (32); Robert Anthony Brown (29); William Matthew Brown (27)

7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended.

Master of Science in National Resources Strategy, 1999
Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University
Washington, DC

Master of Science in Civil Engineering, 1985
University of Illinois at Champaign, Urbana
Champaign-Urbana, IL

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, 1978
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
New London, CT

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

Senior Adviser to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere,
November 2014 – Present, Washington, DC (non-managerial)

Vice Admiral, May 2010-June 2014
U.S. Coast Guard, Various locations (managerial)

Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, May 2012-May 2014
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC (managerial)

Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area, Alameda, CA, May 2010-May 2012
(managerial)

Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District, May 2008-May 2010, Honolulu, HI
(managerial)

Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Maintenance and Logistics Command Pacific, June
2006-May 2008, Alameda, CA (managerial)

Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Sector, May 2005-May 2006,
Honolulu, HI (managerial)

Concurrent Temporary Duty Assignment working under orders to U.S. Department of
Defense: Senior Advisor for Transportation to the Coalition Provisional Authority,
April-July 2004, Baghdad, Iraq (managerial)

Chief, Officer Personnel Management Division, May 2003-May 2005,
U.S. Coast Guard Personnel Command, Arlington, VA (managerial)

Assistant Chief, Officer Personnel Management Division, July 2002-May 2003, U.S.
Coast Guard Personnel Command, Arlington, VA (managerial)

Military Assistant to the Secretary of Transportation, July 1999-July 2002, U.S.
Department of Transportation, Washington, DC (managerial)

Senior Service School, National Defense University, July 1998-June 1999,
Washington, DC (non-managerial)

Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Group, August 1996-July 1998,
Charleston, SC (managerial)

Assistant Chief, Civil Engineering Division, June 1995-July 1996,
U.S. Coast Guard Maintenance and Logistics Command Pacific
Alameda, CA (managerial)

Facilities Engineer, July 1993-June 1995, U.S. Coast Guard Support Center,
Alameda, CA (managerial)

Engineering Assignment Officer, July 1990-July 1993, Officer Personnel Division,
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC (managerial)

Deputy Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Group, July 1989-June 1990, Mayport, FL
(managerial)

Project Civil Engineer, Seventh Coast Guard District, Miami, FL,
January 1985-July 1989 (non-managerial)

Post-Graduate School, July 1983-January 1985, University of Illinois at Champaign-
Urbana, IL (non-managerial)

Assistant Public Works Officer, July 1980-June 1983, U.S. Coast Guard Training
Center, Alameda, CA (managerial)

Shipboard Engineer, June 1978-June 1980, U.S. Coast Guard Icebreaker GLACIER
(WAGB-4), Long Beach, CA (managerial)

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

My official Coast Guard biography and civilian résumé are attached.

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with
Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above, within the last five
years.

Member, Board of Trustees, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT, July
2006-April 2010

Co-Advisor, Center for Island, Maritime, and Extreme Environment Security
(CIMES), a U.S. Dept of Homeland Security-sponsored research center hosted at
University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI, July 2008-May 2010

Chair, Policy Board, Hawaii-Pacific Federal Executive Board (FEB), Honolulu, HI,
December 2009-May 2010

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution within the last five years.

Immediate Past National President, National Naval Officers Association, Inc., Washington, DC, July 2006-July 2010

Member, Finance Council, Assumption Catholic Church, Washington, DC, June 2012-present

Member, Board of Trustees (as an alumnus), Saint Johns College High School, Washington, DC, May 2012-present

12. Please list each membership you have had during the past ten years or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religious organization, private club, or other membership organization. Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or handicap.

Professional Civil Engineer, State of Florida (1985-present)

Member, U.S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association (1978-present)

Life Member, National Naval Officers Association, Inc. (member since 1982)

Life Member, University of Illinois Alumni Association (1985-present)

Life Member, Association of Naval Service Officers (regular member for intermittent periods from 1993-2005; life member since 2011)

Member, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (1983-present)

Member, Veterans of Foreign Wars (2009-present)

Member, Naval Order of the United States (2008-present)

Member, Military Officers Association of America (1993-present)

Member, Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association (2012-present)

Life Member, National Society of Black Engineers (2012-present)

Member, Society of American Military Engineers (intermittent since 1996; consistent 2007-present)

Member, U.S. Naval Institute (mid-1980s-present)

Member, Alumni Association of Industrial College of the Armed Forces (intermittent since 2008)

Member, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (intermittent since early 1990's; currently a member)

Member, Kings Grove Community Association, Burke, VA (2002-present)

Former Member, American Society of Civil Engineers (intermittent between 1980-1995)

Except of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., which is a college-based social fraternity for men that I joined in 1983 as a family legacy, none of the listed organizations to my knowledge restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or handicap.

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

No

14. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$500 or more for the past ten years. Also list all offices you have held with, and services rendered to, a state or national political party, or election committee during the same period.

None

15. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

Scholarships (education funded by U.S. government employer):

Master of Science in National Resources Strategy, 1999, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, Washington, DC

Master of Science in Civil Engineering, 1985, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, 1978, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT

Military Medals:

- Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal (two awards: 2012 and 2014)
- U.S. Department of Transportation Gold Medal (2004)
- Legion of Merit (three awards: 2002, 2008 and 2010)
- Meritorious Service Medal (four awards: 1993, 1999, 2005 and 2006)
- Coast Guard Commendation Medal (two awards: 1989 and 1996)
- DOT 9-11 Transportation Medal (2002)
- Coast Guard Achievement Medal (three awards: 1983, 1990 and 1996)

Honorary Recognition:

Honorary Master Chief Petty Officer, 2011, bestowed by Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard and Commandant of the Coast Guard.

Honorary Member, Patrol Frigate Reunion Association, 1995, bestowed by a veteran's organization.

Special Recognition:

- Meritorious Service Award, 2014, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- Century of Excellence Award 2011, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
- U.S. Secret Service Director's Honor Award, 2010.
- Flag Officers Award, 2009, Thurgood Marshall College Fund.
- Coast Guard Captain John G. Witherspoon Award for Inspirational Leadership, 1994.

16. Please list each book, article, column, or publication you have authored, individually or with others. Also list any speeches that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Do not attach copies of these publications unless otherwise instructed.

Magazine article entitled, "The Case for the Cutter," U.S. Naval Institute PROCEEDINGS Magazine, August 2011.

Speech given to Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association on November 11, 2008, in Honolulu, HI.

17. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

None.

18. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

My work experience with the U.S. Coast Guard was focused on missions related to maritime safety, security, and stewardship. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) missions are focused on science, service, and stewardship. Given the similar nature of both sets of organizational values and culture, as well as the collaborative nature of how missions are executed, I expect that my Coast Guard experience has prepared me well for the management needs of the position of Assistant Secretary for Environmental Observation and Prediction. In addition, I have extensive experience working with NOAA as a tactical and operational commander in the maritime environment. For example, in 2009 there was the grounding of the Motor Vessel Casitas at Pearl and Hermes Atoll. I served as Federal On Scene Commander and member of the Unified Command that executed the successful and highly collaborative response to this incident.

My perspective as a strategic leader and engineer will enable me to assess and respond to challenges related to evolving the National Weather Service and properly manage the wide array of observational systems NOAA maintains that are vital to the U.S. economy, particularly the satellites.

I am interested in this position for many reasons. I believe I have acquired the skill sets needed to manage large and complex systems and enhance the quality of operations of those systems, and if confirmed, I believe my skills could be helpful to the important missions of NOAA. During my last assignment with the Coast Guard, I managed the Coast Guard's logistics system including human resource management, physical asset and information technology sustainment, and the acquisition process. The recently modernized system, called mission support, was tasked to provide large-scale agile and responsive support during the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy to restore damaged operating facilities, attend to Coast Guardsmen and their families in affected areas, and, ultimately, ensure that our operating forces were capable of operating effectively. The Coast Guard Commandant noted that this was the first real test of the modernized mission support system and that it passed with flying colors. I am also very passionate about our environment and how expanding our knowledge of that benefits our economy, and I welcome the opportunity to advance American interests with challenges such as increases in extreme weather and a changing Arctic.

19. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

If confirmed, my responsibilities to promote proper management and accounting controls within NOAA are to understand the specific programs my position will be responsible for managing, to direct appropriate oversight and actions to ensure compliance in those programs, to be accountable to higher authority, and establish good communication with internal and external stakeholders, including Congress. I believe that leaders at all levels are responsible and accountable for contributing to good stewardship of taxpayer resources. In my last position with the U.S. Coast

Guard, the mission support organization that I led significantly contributed to the Coast Guard's success in becoming the first military service in history to achieve a clean, unqualified audit opinion. The Coast Guard's audit success also contributed to a clean, unqualified audit opinion for the Department of Homeland Security.

20. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

I believe one of the top challenges every government agency is facing, including NOAA, is the need to sustain mission effectiveness in a resource constrained budget environment. It's important to focus on the highest priority needs using prudent risk management techniques, by promoting efficiency within our processes, by leveraging the talents and skills with our people, and by collaborating with interagency, academic, industry and international partners to achieve innovative and mutually beneficial solutions. These actions will be especially important as we move forward with needed enhancements to observational systems, particularly satellites.

A second challenge would be the need to uphold the trust and confidence of the President, Secretary of Commerce, the Congress, and the American people by ensuring that we communicate appropriately about what we are doing as public servants and describing the impact that our work has on our nation and the citizens we serve.

Finally, I believe that a top challenge is to ensure that the National Weather Service (NWS) continues to provide timely, relevant, and reliable products and services, which are vital to the safety, security, and prosperity of Americans and our economy. Given factors such as increasing trends with extreme weather and aging observational systems, this is a dynamic challenge that will require the NWS to continue to be proactive, anticipatory, and adaptive.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts.

Please see my nominee PFDR for information about my and my spouse's individual retirement accounts. In addition, I own a Thrift Savings Plan account from my military service with a balance of \$228,425 as of December 30, 2014. My retirement pension for 36 years of active military service is \$5,235 gross per month. As of November 2014, I receive service-connected disability compensation from the Veteran's Administration, currently at the rate of \$1156 per month.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

No.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Department of Commerce's designated agency ethics official to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Department's designated agency ethics official and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Department of Commerce's designated agency ethics official to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Department's designated agency ethics official and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

5. Describe any activity during the past ten years in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

None.

6. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including any that may be disclosed by your responses to the above items.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Department of Commerce's designated agency ethics official to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Department's designated agency ethics official and that has been

provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics by, or been the subject of a complaint to any court, administrative agency, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If so, please explain.

No.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No.

3. Have you or any business of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding or civil litigation? If so, please explain.

Yes, I was named as a private individual in a lawsuit filed in 1998 in the Northern District of Ohio by the former Executive Director to the National Naval Officers Association, Inc. (NNOA). I terminated NNOA's contract with the Executive Director in 1998 shortly after becoming the National President and discovering apparent financial irregularities stemming from the 1997 Annual Conference. When the lawsuit was filed, I was no longer a member of the Board of Directors. My name was removed as a defendant before the case was tried, and there was no judgment against me. The lawsuit has since been resolved.

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No.

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

No.

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

I was informed in 2010 that someone had alleged to DHS Headquarters "telephone hotline" earlier in that year, that in 2009, while I was Commander of the Coast Guard's 14th District (D14) in Hawaii, that a violation of the Posse Comitatus Act

occurred when officers in D14 either acted as a part-time liaison to Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources, or assigned an officer to that duty. It was also alleged that the officer who performed the part-time liaison duties had an advantage in obtaining a job with the State agency when he retired from the Coast Guard. While a violation of the Posse Comitatus Act can occur if an active duty DOD military member enforces civil law, Coast Guard personnel do not violate the Posse Comitatus Act when officially enforcing civil law because the Coast Guard is a federal law enforcement agency in addition to being a military service. I was aware in 2009 that a D14 officer was interested in obtaining a Hawaii state agency position after he retired from the Coast Guard. I and the transitioning officer sought and complied with legal and ethics guidance provided by the Coast Guard D14 Staff Judge Advocate throughout the officer's process of negotiating and securing employment. DHS Headquarters passed these allegations to the Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS), which concluded that the Posse Comitatus Act allegation lacked merit, and that there was no basis to investigate. CGIS so advised the Coast Guard. No further action was directed.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees?

Yes.

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistle blowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures?

Yes.

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee?

Yes.

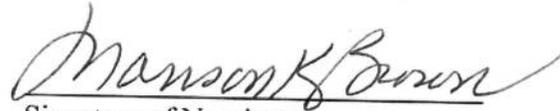
4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?

Yes.

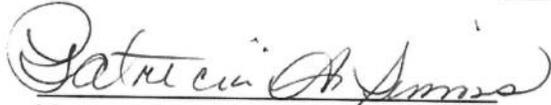
~~(Nominee is to include this signed affidavit, along with answers to the above questions.)~~

F. Affidavit

MANSON K. BROWN being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.


Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 30th day of Jan, 2015.


Notary Public



PATRICIA A. SIMMS
NOTARY PUBLIC DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
My Commission Expires September 30, 2019