

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

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

Melissa Bert

2. Position to which nominated:

Rear Admiral, Lower Half

3. Date of Nomination: September 18, 2015

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

Home address (rented):

Work address:

5. Date and Place of Birth:

November 2, 1965, New York, NY, USA

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).

None

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

U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Bachelor of Science, 1987; and
George Washington University School of Law, Juris Doctorate, 1994.

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.

I have served as a Coast Guard Officer since May 20, 1987. Please see my official Coast guard biography for detailed information.

Additionally, I served as an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Florida International University in 2005 - 2006, and at George Washington University from 2007 - 2008. I plan to teach a class in military justice as an adjunct professor at the University of Miami Law School this Fall.

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

My official Coast Guard biography is 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.

Volunteer Guardian ad Litem in Miami, Florida, 2005 – 2006; and
Pro Bono attorney in the Family Law Clinic, District of Columbia Superior Court, 2013 – 2014.

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.

WLRN Miami Public Radio/Television Community Advisory Board (including service as Vice Chair), 2004 – 2006; and
member of the Leadership Miami Executive Steering Committee, 2005 - 2006.

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.

Council on Foreign Relations – member since 2013;
Maritime Law Association of the United States – member since 2014;
U.S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, officer on Board of Directors from 2009 – 2013, and Vice Chair from 2012 – 2013;
Women in International Shipping and Trading Association – member since 2012;
Society of White House Military Social Aides – member since 2006;
Florida Bar Association – member since 1994; and
District of Columbia Bar Association – member since 1994.

None of these organizations restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

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.

Harvard Kennedy School National Security Fellowship, 2008 – 2009;
Council on Foreign Relations Military Fellow, 2011 – 2012;
Coast Guard Legion of Merit awarded 2014;
Three Meritorious Service Medals awarded 2011, 2008 and 2006 respectively;
United Way Green Family Values Award 2006;
Judge Advocates Association Outstanding Career Armed Services Attorney Award 2006;
United Way American Values Award 2006;
American Bar Association Young Military Lawyer of the Year for the Coast Guard 1997; and
Three Commendation Medals, an Achievement Medal and assorted other military recognition awarded since commissioning in 1987.

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.

"A Strategy to Advance the Arctic Economy," Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) Innovation Memorandum, 2012;
"The Arctic is Now: Economic and National Security in the Last Frontier," American Foreign Policy Interests, 2012;
"Addressing the Risk of a Cuban Oil Spill," Council on Foreign Relations Policy Innovation Memorandum, 2012;
"Missing at Sea in Costa Incident: Leadership," Miami Herald, Philadelphia Inquirer, San Diego Tribune, Houston Chronicle, 2012;
"Cuba's Oil Plans Raise Red Flags," Miami Herald, 2012;
"Look North, America," International Herald Tribune, 2011;
"Ratify the Law of the Sea Convention," Boston Globe, 2009; and
"The Arctic in Transition - A Call to Action," Journal of Law and Commerce, 2009.

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?

I have served the Coast Guard and our Nation as a judge advocate, staff officer, and operational commander across the full spectrum of missions and in communities around the country. The Coast Guard has invested significant education and mentorship in me to ensure that I am ready to lead at the executive level. I am well-prepared and have boundless passion for all that we do and our amazing people. It is my strongest desire to serve the American public in this position.

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?

In my current position, I am responsible for both proper execution of operations and allocation and management of an eighty million dollar annual budget. It is my responsibility to ensure accounting controls are in place and enforced, and that our leaders scrupulously oversee the expenditure of those funds, as well as the training and accountability of those in their charge. Additionally, throughout my career I have held fast to the principle that all public servants are obliged to be good stewards of public resources. I will remain steadfast to that principle if confirmed.

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

The Nation is facing an increasingly polarized electorate with less desire to work together to find solutions to difficult problems. The Department and the Coast Guard seek to protect this country effectively and efficiently, while ensuring we are attuned to the concerns of all those we serve. This tension will continue to challenge us.

As budgets become more constrained, we will need to make tough choices on recapitalization of aging assets and infrastructure, operational priorities, and how we collectively conduct our missions. We must leverage efficiencies and eradicate unnecessary duplication within our own organization and throughout the inter-agency to achieve optimal effectiveness.

Americans are often resistant to the generalized notion of government regulations, pointing to sometimes cumbersome and lengthy processes to accomplish goals. However, as an agency and Department, we are bound to protect the American people, our facilities, and the marine environment. Attaining a good balance in the issuance and enforcement of regulations while recognizing the role of the private sector and needs of the American public will continue to challenge us in the coming decade.

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 Public Financial Disclosure Report.

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.

None

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.

None

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.

I will obtain advice from a Coast Guard ethics official and follow that advice.

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.

No

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. If you ever served as a general court-martial convening authority involving an offense involving sexual misconduct or assault, have you ever disapproved the findings of a court-martial related to the offense(s) or reduced the sentence adjudged by a court-martial, other than in connection with a pre-trial agreement?

No

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

None

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

F. AFFIDAVIT

Melissa Bert 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.

Melissa Bert

Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 21ST day of SEPTEMBER, 2015

Ralph W. J.

Notary Public





BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

CAPTAIN MELISSA BERT

Captain Melissa Bert became the Coast Guard Seventh District Chief of Staff in June 2014, responsible for oversight of Coast Guard operations and in the Southeastern United States and Caribbean and the leadership of a combined active duty, reserve, civilian and volunteer workforce of 10,000 people. Just prior, she served as the Chief of the Coast Guard's Maritime and International Law Division, supporting U.S. engagement with the International Maritime Organization and providing legal advice on Coast Guard maritime safety, security and stewardship policies – including drug and migrant interdiction, homeland security, search and rescue, pollution response, port and vessel safety and security, Outer Continental Shelf regulation, fisheries law enforcement, counter-terrorism and piracy initiatives, Arctic stewardship, and environmental protection.



Captain Bert's Coast Guard career has encompassed operational and legal tours. She served aboard two cutters, including as Executive Officer of the Cutter Red Birch in Baltimore, Maryland. During the attacks of 9/11, she was the Operations Officer for Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach, California, where she was responsible for port security, search and rescue, and law enforcement in the ports/coastline of Southern California.

From 2009 - 2011, she was the Commander of Coast Guard Sector Juneau and Captain of the Port for Southeastern Alaska. The Sector was responsible for overseeing a wide array of maritime operations and activities in Southeast Alaska. She previously served as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the Seventh District in Miami, FL and was a Military Judge.

Captain Bert is a graduate of the Coast Guard Academy and George Washington University Law School. From 2008 – 2009, she was a national security fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, where she focused on Arctic development and the Law of the Sea. She has taught as an adjunct professor at George Washington University and Florida International University. Captain Bert was also a military fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in New York.

Her honors include the United Way American Values Award, a Legion of Merit, three Meritorious Service Medals, three CG Commendation Medals, an Achievement Medal, and a Voluntary Service Medal. She was awarded the Young Military Lawyer of the Year for the Coast Guard by the American Bar Association in 1997. In May 2006, she received the Judge Advocates Association Outstanding Career Armed Services Attorney Award. She is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a Proctor in Admiralty in the United States Maritime Law Association.

Captain Melissa Bert

Current Assignment

Jun 14 – present Seventh Coast Guard District, Chief of Staff

Work History

Jun 12 – May 14 Coast Guard Office of Maritime and International Law, Office Chief
Jul 11 – Jun 12 Council on Foreign Relations, Fellow
May 09 – Jul 11 Sector Juneau, Commander
Jul 08 – May 09 Harvard Kennedy School, National Security Fellow
May 06 – Jul 08 Office of Coast Guard Commandant, Special Assistant for
Speechwriting/Strategic Communications
Jul 02 – May 06 Seventh Coast Guard District, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate
May 00 – Jul 02 Marine Safety Office/Group Los Angeles Long Beach,
Group Operations Officer
May 98 – May 00 Coast Guard Personnel Command, Chief, Officer Boards Section
Nov 94 – May 98 Seventh Coast Guard District, Staff Attorney
Aug 91 – Jun 94 George Washington University Law School, Duty Under Instruction
Jun 89 – Jun 91 Coast Guard Cutter RED BIRCH, Executive Officer
Jun 87 – Jun 89 Coast Guard Cutter PAPA W, Deck Watch Officer/Operations Officer

Educational Summary

2004, Military Judge Certification, Army Judge Advocate General (JAG) School
1994, Judge Advocate Trial Counsel Certification, Naval Justice School
1994, George Washington University Law School, Juris Doctorate
1999, Naval War College Non-resident Program, Certificate of Completion
1987, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Bachelor of Science

Military Personal Awards and Significant National Recognition or Achievement

2014 – Legion of Merit
2011, 2008 and 2016 – Meritorious Service Medals
2006 – Judge Advocate's Association Outstanding Career Armed Services Attorney Award
2006 – United Way American Values Award
1997 – American Bar Association (ABA) Young Military Lawyer of the Year Award
1987 – CGA Highest Proficiency in Government Award/Graduated with Honors

Significant Current Professional Credentials or Recent Activities

2012 – 2013, Vice Chair, Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association
2013 - present, Life member, Council on Foreign Relations
2007 – 2008, Adjunct Professor, George Washington University
2004 – 2006, Special Courts-Martial Judge