

United States President Donald Trump has nominated former Central Intelligence Agency official and national security strategist Nicholas Checker as the next U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda.

The nomination was formally transmitted to the U.S. Senate on July 21 and now awaits consideration by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. If confirmed by a full Senate vote, Checker will succeed Eric Kneedler, a career diplomat who completed his assignment in Kigali earlier this year.

Checker comes to the role with extensive experience across intelligence, executive policymaking, and diplomatic affairs. He spent over a decade at the Central Intelligence Agency from 2014 to 2025, specializing in conflict analysis in the Greater Middle East and the Horn of Africa, as well as managing relations with Capitol Hill in the agency's Office of Congressional Affairs. His work on Afghanistan earned him the Intelligence Commendation Medal in 2021 and the Director's Award for Analysis in 2022.

Following his tenure at the CIA, Checker served as a national security fellow for Senator Bill Hagerty before taking on senior executive roles. He worked as Deputy Executive Secretary at the National Security Council during President Trump's first term and later joined the U.S. Department of State. In early 2026, he led the Bureau of African Affairs as Senior Bureau Official before serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Southern Africa and Foreign Assistance.

Checker holds a bachelor's degree in history and political science from the University of Wisconsin and a master's degree in Security Studies from Georgetown University.

If confirmed, Checker will oversee Washington's diplomatic mission in Kigali at a time when bilateral relations continue to focus on regional security, economic partnerships, and strategic trade networks across the Great Lakes region.