

HON. ELMER L. ROMAN



On December 2019, Elmer Luis Román was designated Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of State. In this position, he also serves as the Lieutenant Governor of the Island. Prior to that, Mr. Roman served as the Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Public Safety. In this capacity, he was in charge of the Puerto Rico Police Bureau, the Fire Department Corps Bureau, the Forensic Sciences Bureau, the Medical Emergencies Bureau, the Emergency Management and Disaster Administration Bureau, the 9-1-1 Services Bureau, and the Special Investigations Bureau. He is also the Homeland Security Advisor to the Governor of Puerto Rico.

Mr. Román obtained his degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez Campus, a master's degree in Systems Engineering from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Administration from Colorado Technical University. He graduated from the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) Recruit Depot in Parris Island, the USMC Officer Candidates School, the US Navy Senior Engineering Duty Officer School, the Federal Executive Institute, the Defense Acquisition University, and has completed courses in executive development at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. After serving in the Marines, he made his transition to the Naval Reserve Engineering Duty program, leading heavy lift salvage support missions worldwide. These include the heavy lift operations of the destroyers USS John S. McCain (DDG 56) and USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) after the fateful collisions in 2017. Mr. Roman participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009.

Prior to his confirmation, Mr. Román was the Director of the Joint Capability Technology Demonstration (JCTD) program and team leader for Mission Integration in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. Mr. Roman was responsible for providing executive leadership and management of demonstration programs for new advanced defense technologies. He directed the planning and transition of new combat capabilities to the Joint Forces and National Security Agencies within a portfolio worth over \$700 million. Mr. Roman is also a CAPTAIN in the U.S. Navy Reserve where he serves as the Commanding Officer of the Supervisor of Salvage and Diving Unit and Pillar Lead of the Salvage, Diving, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Forces of the Naval Sea Systems Command. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1991 to 1997.

Previously, Mr. Román served from 2010 to 2015 as Oversight Executive of International Cooperation and Asymmetric Warfare programs in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics. He was responsible for the implementation of Department of Defense's efforts in the fight against transnational organized crime; security cooperation, humanitarian assistance/disaster management, and capacity building for allied countries.

Mr. Roman served in a diplomatic assignment from 2005 to 2010 as Regional Director of the Office of Naval Research (ONR) Global at the United States Embassy in Santiago, Chile. While in Chile, he was appointed as Secretary-General of the Specialized Inter- American Naval Conference of Science and Technology and was a member of the Country Team of the United States Embassy in Santiago.

His awards include two US Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medals, two US Navy Meritorious (Military) Service Medals, and the Chilean Armed Forces Military Star for his work during the response of the category 8.8 earthquake in 2010. He is also the recipient of the United States Navy League RADM William S. Parsons Award for scientific and technical achievement, the General Carl A. Spaatz Award, the 2009 STEM HENAAC Luminary Award, a Department of State Meritorious Honor Award, and a NASA Technical Achievement Commendation, amongst other military and civil awards.