

# Ellen Tannor Richardson

## Broadcast Journalist | National Security & Foreign Policy Expert | Former Senior Career Diplomat |

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### Professional Summary

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Broadcast journalist, strategic communicator and former senior U.S. diplomat with more than two decades of foreign policy, national security and real world, crisis-tested communication experience. Skilled at conceiving, pitching, and producing enterprise and news stories across platforms—on-air and online. Known for translating complex legal, political, and international issues into clear, compelling narratives that deepen audience understanding. I bring a collaborative, mission-driven approach to newsroom work, with a proven ability to thrive under tight deadlines, shifting priorities, and high-pressure environments. My career reflects a consistent ability to engage diverse stakeholders and produce gripping content that informs, connects and inspires.

### Journalism, Experience

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#### **POLITICO, POLITICO Journalism Institute Manager/Mentor**

Washington, D.C. | May 2026–Present

- Managed workflow of an intensive journalism institute, ensuring seamless execution of workshops, field visits, and engagement with industry leaders.
- Mentored emerging journalists providing individualized guidance on reporting, project strategy, and professional development, strengthening newsroom readiness and editorial judgement.
- Oversaw multi-site movement of journalists, synchronizing transportation, schedules and program requirements.
- Helped refine story pitches and build essential competencies including time management, communications and problem-solving.
- Facilitated professional networking opportunities for students to engage with POLITICO editors, reporters, and industry leaders expanding their professional exposure, network and career pathways.

#### **Journalist, *The Wash***

Washington, D.C. | July 2025–Present

- Conceive, pitch, and report enterprise stories on Congress, the Supreme Court, and local governance, producing coverage accessible to broad audiences.
- Report from the field on breaking news, including public safety incidents, political demonstrations, and community-impact events.
- Produce multimedia packages combining on-air reporting, natural sound, interviews, and digital storytelling
- File stories on deadline for cross-platform distribution, adapting scripts for audio, web, and short-form video.
- Cover community responses to SNAP benefits, youth curfews, National Guard deployments, and political activism.
- Selected for prestigious three-week fellowship at the Center for Investigative Journalism (SUJO), Norway's premier investigative journalism program, strengthening enterprise reporting and investigative techniques.

### **Global Leadership Experience U.S. Department of State – Diplomatic Security Service 2002–2025**

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#### **Senior Advisor to the CEO, Corporate Council on Africa**

Washington, D.C. | 2024–2025

- Served as principal interlocutor and communications authority bridging diplomatic, private sector, and congressional efforts on policy, legislation, and advocacy.
- Led strategic communications and messaging on U.S.–Africa policy, producing speeches, talking points, newsletters, congressional and presidential briefings for CEO and public-facing narratives for senior leadership.
- Facilitated strategic engagement with senior government officials, private-sector, and international stakeholders to strengthen trade relations and hosted several African heads of state at US-Africa Business Summit.

#### **Executive Director, Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)**

Washington, D.C. | 2021–2024

- Served as the organization's public spokesperson, conducting White House and State Department off the record press briefings and articulating complex global-security issues to diverse audiences.
- Directed crisis-response communication during major global security events in Sudan, Haiti, Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine.
- Oversaw content strategy, doubling social media and expanding global membership by 30% in 150 countries.
- Led production of the State Department's largest annual conference, shaping editorial themes and public messaging and conducting high profile keynote interviews.

**Senior Security Advisor, The U.S. European Command (EUCOM)** Stuttgart, Germany | 2018–2021

- Advised U.S. Generals and executive leadership at a 4-Star Command on security policy, crisis response, personnel recovery and evacuations for U.S. diplomatic missions in Europe and Lebanon.
- Led interagency delegation to Beirut to brief leadership of operational and emergency planning efforts.
- Provided real-time crisis communication and reporting during evacuations, credible threats, and regional instability.

**Branch Chief, Counterintelligence Division** Washington, D.C. | 2015 – 2018

- Directed and developed counterintelligence policy to mitigate threats of foreign adversaries, coordinated training of diplomatic personnel to deter and thwart illicit intelligence-gathering efforts and insider threats.
- Developed policy directives for the interagency community and assessed threats from foreign governments and intelligence entities to protect personnel worldwide.
- **Selected as the first Special Agent Fellow to the Department of State International Women's Forum Fellowship.**

**Diplomatic Security Congressional Affairs Advisor** Washington, D.C. | 2014 – 2015

- Shaped Diplomatic Security post-Benghazi congressional communication strategy to oversight committees.
- Advised senior executives and stakeholders on congressional briefings and testimony, drafted testimony, and guidance papers to influence congressional members and staff on legislation.
- Briefed congressional members and staff on key security, intelligence, and national security policy issues.
- Led historic U.S. Congressional delegation to Cuba on a groundbreaking policy visit with Cuban government.

**Management Officer and Acting Deputy Chief of Mission** Luanda, Angola | 2012 – 2014

- Led U.S. Embassy Luanda \$60 million management platform, oversaw logistics, communication, and medical support to provide critical services to U.S. diplomats and advance diplomatic relations.

**Special Agent, Department of Justice, International Organized Crime Task Force** Chantilly, VA | 2010 – 2011

- Coordinated interagency investigations with FBI, DHS, Interpol, Secret Service, state and local agencies to develop policy and strengthen compliance of visa programs to disrupt international organized crime syndicates.

**Regional Security Officer, U.S. Embassy Djibouti** Djibouti, Djibouti | 2007 – 2009

- Chief Security Advisor to the U.S. Ambassador and lead law enforcement official managing and providing guidance on counterterrorism, security programs, border conflict, and U.S./Djiboutian law enforcement security cooperation.

**Assistant Regional Security Officer, U.S. Embassy Algiers** Algiers, Algeria | 2005 – 2007

**Special Agent, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Security Detail** Washington, D.C. | 2003 – 2005

**Special Agent, Chicago Field Office** Chicago, IL | 2002 – 2003

**Education**

**American University**, Washington, D.C. Master of Arts, Journalism & Public Affairs

**University of Baltimore**, Baltimore, MD MBA, International Business

**Texas Wesleyan University**, Fort Worth, TX BBA, Marketing

**Harvard Business School** and, **INSEAD Executive Leadership Training**

**Languages: Portuguese, French | Clearance: Top Secret/SCI**

**Skills and Qualifications**

Enterprise reporting • Field reporting • On-air presentation • Audio storytelling Scriptwriting • Interviewing • Breaking-news coverage • Digital & social storytelling and editing • Editorial judgment • Pitch development • Cross-platform production • Crisis communication • Public affairs reporting • Foreign Policy, International & National Security Expertise