



With a career spanning over three decades, Elisa-Ruth Nelson has been a dedicated servant to her country since January 1992, marking an impactful journey in the Federal Government. She embarked on her path at the Department of Justice/Bureau of Prisons at the Federal Correctional Institution in Petersburg, Virginia, where her multifaceted career took root.

Elisa-Ruth hails from the unique and resilient community of North Pole, Alaska, where she spent nearly 20 years. Raised by a mother who passionately advocated for and educated children in the Alaskan school system, and a father who served in the Air Force for 24 years, Elisa-Ruth's upbringing was enriched by a tapestry of strong, talented, and resilient individuals. Adding to the family legacy, her Grammy-Award nominee sister who plays the viola with the Cleveland Orchestra has instilled in Elisa-Ruth a profound sense of duty, perseverance, and a passion for making a meaningful difference. Elisa-Ruth's personal life is equally rich. Married to her husband, who himself served 26 years in the Air Force, they are currently living their best lives in Northern Virginia.

Throughout her time in the Federal Government, Elisa-Ruth has embraced various roles, each contributing to her extensive experience. Starting as a Human Resources Generalist, she transitioned to serving as a Civilian Personnel Officer, later taking on the role of Chief of Human Capital Evaluations at the Department of the Army, and a similar role at the Department of the Treasury. Her continuous pursuit of enhancing organizational effectiveness and supporting the professional growth of countless individuals underscores her commitment to excellence. Currently, Elisa-Ruth leads the Training and Professional Development Program at the Defense Security Cooperation Agency. Here, she is dedicated to driving initiatives that empower the workforce.

Elisa-Ruth's academic journey includes a Bachelor's degree in Mass Media Communications - Broadcast, and Journalism from Wilberforce University, and a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership from Southern New Hampshire University. She also holds a Senior Professional in Human Resources certification from the HR Certification Institute, reflecting her commitment to professional development and expertise in human resources.

While Elisa-Ruth has always been passionate about mentoring others, the past four years have marked a transformative period in her own professional development. Guided by a solid group of mentors, her "executive board," she has learned to recognize and celebrate her own strengths and achievements, both personally and professionally. This journey of self-discovery and growth has not only enriched her career but also reinforced her dedication to making a positive impact.