

George 'Andy' Erickson named Laboratory Senior Fellow

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George “Andy” Erickson, deputy principal associate director of Global Security and the Laboratory’s senior intelligence executive, has been named a Laboratory Senior Fellow, becoming the sixth Senior Fellow currently serving at the Laboratory. The designation of Laboratory Senior Fellow is bestowed on staff for extraordinary service to the Laboratory and nation. Often their contributions are nearly invisible to the outside world, either because their contributions are classified or the service is not easily measured by classic metrics such as peer-reviewed publications or selection by scientific and engineering societies for honors.

“I have known and worked with Andy for many years now,” said Laboratory Director **Terry Wallace**, who was principal associate director of Global Security prior to being named director. “He embodies the principles of honor, integrity, and service that define the mission of the Laboratory. Much of his work will never be known to the broader world, but has fundamentally

improved national security. His boundless energy, dedication, and creativity when it comes to problem solving are invaluable.”

Nancy Jo Nicholas, principal associate director of Global Security, added, “Andy excels at recognizing and fostering curiosity for innovative possibilities far beyond conventional practice. He is truly a strategic thinker in the area of emerging threats and is a recognized and respected leader within the Laboratory, the tri-lab enterprise, the DOE/NNSA, and the Intelligence Community.”

Erickson began his career at the Laboratory more than 20 years ago, providing quick-response tools to help Global Security sponsors address emerging threats. He also served as a nuclear incident responder on the Joint Technical Operations Team, leveraging the Laboratory’s weapons experience to design and build the tools needed to counter an improvised or stolen nuclear device. He was named deputy principal associate director of Global Security in February 2015.

Working with his counterparts at Livermore and Sandia, Erickson led the effort to build a new and enduring DOE program with stable funding that tapped tri-lab capabilities to provide the most advanced technical intelligence assessment of foreign nuclear weapons. The Foreign Nuclear Weapons Intelligence Initiative formalized the laboratories’ relationship with the intelligence community for complex foreign nuclear weapons assessments, enabling coordinated planning for experimental verification and computational analysis of intelligence. “An added benefit of Andy’s involvement was, and continues to be, his uncanny ability to promote and gain interagency support for technologies suitable to the task of addressing evolving needs such as noncompliance verification,” said Nicholas.

For example, Erickson spearheaded the tri-lab Secretary of Energy study on Strategic Deterrence by integrating Weapons and Global Security contributions at the highest level. The effort brought distinction to our Laboratory in the eyes of our sponsors and was recognized by then-DOE Secretary **Ernie Moniz**. As a result of his efforts, Erickson is continually sought after to give classified briefings to the most senior of government officials, including members of the U.S. Congress, military, and civilian policy makers.

“The success of Andy’s efforts contributes directly to the strategic objectives of the Laboratory, supporting stockpile stewardship, nuclear nonproliferation, and counter-proliferation — the thrusts of our strategic deterrence mission,” said Wallace. “Andy not only enthusiastically provides outstanding technical expertise and leadership, but also demonstrates exceptional political savvy, professional conduct, and above all, personal integrity. This is precisely the kind of leadership upon which the Laboratory has built its reputation for public service for more than 75 years and why it is appropriate to name him a Senior Fellow.”

Erickson holds a master’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of St. Andrews/Strathclyde in Scotland and did his undergraduate studies in biomedical engineering at the University of California, San Diego.