



Eric E. Riffle

Basic Research Program Manager, Research and Development



Eric Riffle is a Program Manager for the Enabling Capabilities Division of the Operations Department within the Research and Development (RD) Directorate of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). Eric leads DTRA's Basic Research Program which is the nation's primary basic research portfolio dedicated to countering weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The program concentrates on high-risk, high-payoff research to increase the foundational body of scientific knowledge supporting DTRA's Applied Research and Advanced Technology Development projects.

Eric is responsible for activities to conduct scientific research across Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives mission areas, as well as build-up U.S. research institution's personnel scientific capability and capacity to enable new capabilities to control, defeat, disable and/or dispose of WMD threats. He executes an annual budget of approximately \$15 million with a team of military and civilian engineers and scientists serving as program managers and technical points of contact for two University Research Alliances, comprising more than thirty individual research institutions performing fundamental research on the Interactions of Ionizing Radiation with Matter and Material Science in Extreme Environments.

Prior to assuming his current position, Eric served as a scientist and project manager for the Research and Development Division of the Department of Homeland Security's Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office. There he acted as a Project Manager and Contracting Officer's Representative responsible for both technical and programmatic oversight of projects to further chemical detection technologies. He was also responsible for engagement with DHS Science and Technology and coordinating with CWMD's Requirements Division to document requirements to counter WMDs, and prioritized gaps in DHS capabilities.

He entered federal service as a Test Scientist for DTRA's Research and Development (RD) Directorate. While there he participated in test planning and execution across the CBRNE spectrum. He designed multiple large scale chemical dissemination tests to characterize point sensors and stand-off instrumentation to ensure program requirements were accomplished. Eric also participated in test series for hard and deeply buried target defeat, as a technical coordinator, and for radiological detection efforts, as an authorized user responsible for handling DTRA's radioactive sources and Special Nuclear Materials.

Eric holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in Chemistry and a Master of Science in Chemistry with a specialization in Explosive Engineering both from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMT). While at NMT he performed research at the Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center (E.M.R.T.C) this included mixing, synthesis, scale up and handling of homemade explosive materials for counter improvised explosives device (IED) defeat. He also supported DOT transportation hazard classification safety testing of explosive substances and articles. In addition to research projects, duties included synthesis of materials for first responder trainings, and IED/ clandestine lab mockups. Eric is a recipient of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's 2019 Mid-Level Civilian of the Year, and Distinguished Civilian Service Medal.