

# Dr. Michael Kuliasha

## Director of Nuclear Technologies



Dr. Michael A. Kuliasha, a member of the Senior Executive Service (SES), is the Director of the Nuclear Technologies Department for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). Dr. Kuliasha leads DTRA's advanced nuclear detector development, nuclear weapons effects, nuclear survivability and nuclear forensics technologies. He is the agency lead on all technical and programmatic issues related to the effects of nuclear weapons, and formulates and directs research, development, test and evaluation programs to: determine the effects of nuclear detonations; develop nuclear weapons effects testing and modeling capabilities; develop advanced radiation detectors to detect, identify, and locate nuclear and radiological threats; and develop forensic methods and practices to support post-detonation attribution.

He serves as the agency lead for nuclear standards and policies, vulnerability assessments, and testing. He also serves as the DTRA principal on the Weapons Effects Strategic Collaboration and coordinates DoD nuclear weapons effects issues and programs with the National Nuclear Security Administration, U.S. Strategic Command, and the United States' allies.

From 2007 to 2010, Dr. Kuliasha served as the chief technologist of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). As the senior science and technology (S&T) leader at AFRL, he had primary responsibility for the technical content and quality of AFRL's \$4.5 billion per year S&T portfolio and workforce of over 10,800. Dr. Kuliasha served on the air, space, cyberspace and cross-domain working groups of the Technology Horizons Study, a study commissioned by the secretary and chief of staff of the Air Force, to conduct a forward-looking assessment on a 20-year time horizon of potential offensive and defensive capabilities and counter-capabilities of the Air Force and those its potential future adversaries.

Prior to 2007, Dr. Kuliasha held a variety of leadership positions over his 30-year career at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) including associate laboratory director for computing, robotics, and education (acting); director of the computational physics and engineering division; associate director of the energy division; chief scientist for national security and director for homeland security. From 2003 to 2007, he was the chief scientist for national security technologies at ORNL responsible for developing and leading new initiatives in homeland and national security including weapons of mass destruction; nuclear non-proliferation; improvised explosive device defeat; protection of civilian and military assets; emergency response and consequence management and transportation security. From 2001 to 2003, he was the founding director of ORNL's homeland security program and led research initiatives supporting the then new Department of Homeland Security.

He has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Master of Science and Doctorate in Nuclear Engineering from the University of New Mexico. He is a graduate of the executive program at the University of Virginia's Darden Graduate School of Business Administration.