



Dr. Robin Staffin
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Dr. Robin Staffin is currently the Director for Basic Research in the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, where he has responsibility for oversight and coordination of basic research activities throughout the Department of Defense, as well as for all STEM educational and outreach activities. Previously, Dr. Staffin served at the Department of Energy in the posts of Director for High Energy Physics in the Office of Science, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Development in the Office of Defense Programs. As Director for High Energy Physics, Dr. Staffin was responsible for federal funding of the large fraction of US activities in high energy physics, and its facilities. He negotiated international scientific agreements and developed high energy physics collaborations with Europe, East Asia and South Asia. In his previous defense programs post, he had responsibility for planning, construction, and overseeing operation of scientific facilities supporting the Nation's Stockpile Stewardship Program and the Nevada Test Site, and the development of those experimental scientific capabilities needed to certify the Nation's nuclear stockpile without nuclear testing.

During the period 1998-2001, he served as Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary of Energy for Science, Technology, and National Security.

From 1993-1996, Dr. Staffin was Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy, focusing on nuclear test ban policy, science-based stockpile stewardship, and nonproliferation. Previously, he was senior physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where he conducted research on high energy density plasmas, electromagnetic propagation in non-uniform plasmas, and x-ray lasers.

While an employee at the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, Dr. Staffin co-authored the study, "MX Missile Basing."

A physicist by training, he received his Bachelor of Science from MIT and Ph.D. from Stanford University in particle physics. Dr. Staffin had a postdoctoral appointment at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and was a Science and Technology Agency Fellow at Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology.