

Christopher Yeaw

Center for Assurance, Deterrence, Escalation, and Nonproliferation
Science & Education, Louisiana Tech Research Institute



Dr. Christopher Yeaw is the founder and director of the Center for Assurance, Deterrence, Escalation, and Nonproliferation Science & Education (CADENSE) at the Louisiana Tech Research Institute (LTRI). CADENSE is chartered to produce world-class research, assessments, and studies across the spectrum of all nuclear security issues, to promote and conduct cutting-edge nuclear-related educational programs, and to enrich and energize the intellectual discussion within which the U.S. nuclear enterprise conducts its vital missions. Immediately prior to establishing CADENSE, Dr. Yeaw, a former Air Force senior executive, served as the Chief Scientist of Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, LA. AFGSC is responsible for organizing, training, equipping and maintaining all U.S. intercontinental ballistic missile and nuclear-capable bomber forces developing and providing safe, secure, and effective combat-ready forces for nuclear deterrence and global strike operations.

Dr. Yeaw began his career in 1996 at the Naval Surface Warfare Center as a lead missile defense engineer following his graduation with a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering and engineering physics from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He served as a lead nuclear weapons technical intelligence officer with the Defense Intelligence Agency, then held a variety of assignments with the State Department. His tenure at State Department culminated in serving as Principal Adviser for Nuclear Matters to the Assistant Secretary for Verification and Compliance, during which time he was a member of the first special diplomatic mission to Libya and led the initiation of the dismantlement of the that nation's covert nuclear weapons program. He then served as an acting Director within, and Chief Scientist of, the Department of Energy's Office of Intelligence. Prior to helping lead AFGSC's establishment, he was an Associate Professor and Director of the Mahan Scholars Research Program at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.