

Seminar:
National Security Issues at Department of Homeland Security and Department of Energy
Wednesday, November 18th
3:00 pm
Ferguson 217

Presenter:
Richard J. Vojtech, Ph.D.
Program Manager
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Dr. Richard J. Vojtech serves as Program Manager for the Transformational & Applied Research Directorate at the Department of Homeland Security's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. In this role, he is responsible for developing break-through technologies that will have a dramatic positive impact on capabilities to detect nuclear threats through aggressive and expedited R&D programs.

Prior to joining the Department of Homeland Security in 2008, Dr. Vojtech served as the Program Director for Threat Response and Reduction for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Remote Sensing Laboratory, one of the federal government's premier operations and research centers for combating nuclear terrorism. As Director, he was responsible for leading the laboratory's work with the Department of Homeland Security and Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

Dr. Vojtech served for six years as the Manager of the Remote Sensing Laboratory – Andrews, where he was responsible for providing national nuclear emergency response teams capable of responding to both domestic and international nuclear threats and incidents involving the loss, theft, or release of radioactive materials. During this time, Dr. Vojtech also functioned as a senior scientific advisor to the Department of Energy for situations involving radiological accidents or weapons of mass destruction.

Before joining the Remote Sensing Laboratory staff as a Senior Scientist in 1990, Dr. Vojtech was a research scientist at the State University of New York at Stony Brook's Nuclear Structure Laboratory, where he investigated nuclear reaction mechanisms.

In 1981, Dr. Vojtech received a Bachelor's degree in Physics from Loyola College, where he was named both a Presidential and State Senatorial Scholar. In 1987, he was awarded a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics from the University of Notre Dame du Lac for his studies of heavy-ion reaction mechanisms. He is an Eagle Scout and has twenty years experience in nuclear emergency response operations.