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The JAMESTOWN FOUNDATION

August 13, 2024



Dear Loyal Readers,

Over the weekend, I was pleased to learn that Jamestown Foundation contributor Dr. Andrew Erickson, Professor of Strategy at the Naval War College, earned the [U.S. Navy Superior Civilian Service Medal](#) for his analysis of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and intellectual leadership. The award citation noted that Dr. Erickson's "efforts enabled the China

Maritime Studies Institute to influence policy decisions, resulting in force posture adjustments and intelligence priority changes, and influenced government efforts on foreign weapons research.”

In addition to his own leading research on PRC defense issues as a Naval War College faculty member over the past eighteen years, Dr. Erickson was recognized for helping to set up and support the Naval War College’s China Maritime Studies Institute (CMSI), and for serving as its Research Director from 2021 to 2023. The intellectual output of CMSI has been and continues to set a high bar for PLA analysis. We have all benefited from the dozens of articles CMSI-affiliated researchers have contributed to *China Brief* over the years.

Dr. Erickson has contributed to The Jamestown Foundation as an [author](#) of 21 *China Brief* articles, as well as [China’s Anti-Ship Ballistic Missile Development: Drivers, Trajectories, and Strategic Implications](#) (2013) and [Six Years at Sea... And Counting: Gulf of Aden Anti-Piracy and China’s Maritime Commons Presence](#) (2015). He also participated in Jamestown events as a conference speaker for over a decade. Andrew has been unfailingly generous with his time and intellectual energy whenever Jamestown called upon him.

I first met Andrew when I was editor of *China Brief*, and we have remained colleagues and friends through the years. It is hard to imagine an analyst more deserving of one of the highest awards the U.S. Navy bestows upon civilians. His earnestness, integrity, and acumen shine out, and his productivity has, at times, overwhelmed his editors.

Undoubtedly, I will soon find other occasions to highlight the amazing work and recognition of Jamestown’s analysts and contributors. Their research and analysis provide irreplaceable context and insight into the People’s Republic of China, Russia, and other areas of critical concern to the United States and its allies. Analysis is sometimes derided as impractical or divorced from real-world concerns. This award for Professor Erickson

demonstrates that such work can be truly impactful and exemplifies the standard for which we strive at Jamestown.

Best regards,



Peter Mattis
President

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