

Laura J. Itle, Ph.D.

Laura Itle is the Acting Vice President and Director of the Science, Systems and Sustainment Division in the Systems and Analyses Center. She leads a staff of physical scientists, engineers and data scientists engaged in assessing cutting-edge scientific advancements and breakthrough technologies; developing innovative weapon system concepts; conducting analyses of alternatives, developmental testing, and system performance assessments; and performing mission- and force-level modeling and simulation and resource-to-readiness decision modeling.

Laura has been with IDA since 2005. As a Research Staff Member, she worked primarily in the areas of chemical-biological defense, chemical demilitarization, public health, continuity of government, all-hazards and resilience planning, and homeland security and technology development and policy. In 2021, she became an Assistant Director in IDA's Operational Evaluation Division, and in 2024, became the Deputy Director of the newly formed Science, Systems and Sustainment Division.

For more than 15 years, she has led IDA's analytical support of the SAFETY Act, a portion of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 that provides a series of risk, liability, and litigation management techniques for the providers and users of anti-terrorism technologies, including the National Football League, Major League Baseball, multiple global security firms, and small technology start-ups. Her current work with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) focuses on security and anti-terrorism planning, practices, programs, and training, as well as emergency response protocols, for stadia/arenas and other critical infrastructure.

Laura holds a doctorate in chemical engineering with emphasis in Biomolecular Transport Dynamics from the Pennsylvania State University. She also holds a bachelor's degree in chemical and biochemical engineering from the University of Iowa. She earned a certificate in National Security Studies at Syracuse University.

Laura volunteers with the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps to put homeland security practices into operation at the local level.



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