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Andrew S. Erickson awarded inaugural Joffe Prize for PLA Studies

Carlisle, PA - On October 19, 2012, The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) awarded **Andrew S. Erickson** of the U.S. Naval War College the **2012 Ellis Joffe Prize for PLA Studies** for outstanding contributions to the understanding of China's military. In its inaugural year, the prize honors the memory of **Ellis Joffe**, a founding figure in the study of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) who passed away in January 2010. It recognizes a rising scholar who has enhanced the field of China security studies and who demonstrates Dr. Joffe's traits of grace and civility. Dr. Erickson distinguished himself by the volume and quality of his work, signaling a promising future in PLA studies.

Cynthia Watson of the National Defense University, who was secretary of the Joffe Prize Selection Committee, noted that "Dr. Erickson's contributions to the field exemplify precisely the support to Dr. Joffe's civility while also being a tireless and enthusiastic scholar on maritime issues at a point when the study of the PLA in the maritime arena is expanding."

The prize was awarded at the 2012 PLA Conference, "Assessing the People's Liberation Army in the Hu Jintao Era," hosted by NBR, the U.S. Army War College's Strategic Studies Institute, and U.S. Pacific Command.

Dr. Erickson is an Associate Professor in the Strategic Research Department at the U.S. Naval War College and a core founding member of the department's China Maritime Studies Institute. He previously worked for Science Applications International Corporation as a Chinese translator and technical analyst and has also worked in the U.S. embassy in Beijing, the U.S. consulate in Hong Kong, the U.S. Senate, and the White House. Proficient in Mandarin Chinese and Japanese, Dr. Erickson has traveled extensively in Asia and lived in China, Japan, and Korea. He received his PhD and MA in international relations and comparative politics from Princeton University. Dr. Erickson is coeditor of, and a contributor to, the Naval Institute Press's book series "Studies in Chinese Maritime Development," comprising *China's Strategy for the Near Seas* (forthcoming), *Chinese Aerospace Power* (2011), *China, the U.S., and 21st Century Sea Power* (2010), *China Goes to Sea* (2009), *China's Energy Strategy* (2008), and *China's Future Nuclear Submarine Force* (2007). Most recently, Dr. Erickson contributed to NBR's [Strategic Asia 2012-13: China's Military Challenge](#), writing the chapter "[China's Modernization of Its Naval and Air Power Capabilities](#)."

For more information about the Joffe Prize and NBR's work on the PLA, please visit the NBR website at www.nbr.org or contact Sonia Luthra at (202) 347-9767 / media@nbr.org.

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