



Col Erich D. Hernandez-Baquero

Principal Deputy Director GED, NRO

(U) Col Erich Hernandez-Baquero is the Principal Deputy Director of the Ground Enterprise Directorate (GED) at the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). As the Senior Materiel Leader, NRO Integrated Ground Enterprise, he leads hundreds of personnel in a wing-level joint organization executing a multi-billion dollar life-cycle acquisition of command & control and data processing systems supporting vital missions for the Intelligence Community and the Department of Defense.

(U) Col Hernandez-Baquero earned his commission in 1994 from the United States Air Force Academy. He has served in a variety of acquisition programs including test and evaluation at the AFRL Propulsion Directorate in Edwards AFB, research & technology projects at the NRO, and one-of-a-kind advanced demonstration programs enabling game-changing intelligence collection capabilities. Col Hernandez-Baquero is also a Regional Affairs Specialist and served as advisor to the Inter-American Defense Board of the Organization of American States.

(U) Col Hernandez-Baquero is the son of Cuban immigrants who escaped communist dictatorship and found freedom in the United States. He is a Roman Catholic, is married to Kimberly Hernandez-Baquero, and has two sons, Kurtis and Nathan.

(U) Education:

Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science, United States Air Force Academy, 1994
Doctorate of Philosophy Imaging Science, Rochester Institute of Technology, 2000
Squadron Office School, 2001
Spanish Joint Command & Staff College, 2008
Master of Science National Resource Strategy, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, 2012

(U) Assignments:

1994-1997	Chief, Technical Development Branch, Propulsion Directorate, AFRL, Edwards AFB, CA
1997-2000	Student, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY
2000-2002	Chief, Architecture Division, IMINT Research & Technology, NRO
2002-2007	Chief, Satellite Payload Engineering & Integration, NRO
2007-2008	Student, Spanish Joint Command & Staff College, Madrid, Spain
2008-2011	Advisor, Inter-American Defense Board, Ft. McNair, Washington DC
2011-2012	Student, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Ft. McNair, Washington DC
2012-2013	Chief, Payload Division, IMINT, NRO
2013-2017	Deputy Director, IMINT, System Program Office, NRO
2015-2017	Senior Materiel Leader, Electro-Optical Systems, IMINT, NRO
2017-Present	Principal Deputy Director, GED, NRO
2017-Present	Senior Materiel Leader, NRO Integrated Enterprise, GED, NRO



(U) Major Awards and Decorations:

Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal
Honor Graduate, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, 2012
Defense Acquisition University Excellence Award, 2012
Director's Circle Award, NRO, 2004
Outstanding Intelligence Officer of the Year, Air Force, 2004
Company Grade Officer of the Year, NRO, 2002
Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School, 2001
Arthur S. Flemming Scientist of the Year Award, 2000

(U) Effective Dates of Promotion:

Second Lieutenant	1994
First Lieutenant	1996
Captain	1998
Major	2004
Lieutenant Colonel	2008
Colonel	2014