

Daniel P. Erikson



Daniel P. Erikson is a senior advisor at Covington & Burling LLP, and a non-resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council. He has more than twenty years of experience in international relations, national security, and defense policy, primarily focused on Western Hemisphere affairs.

During the Biden Administration, Erikson served as special assistant to the President and senior director for western hemisphere affairs at the National Security Council, where he oversaw U.S. foreign policy in the 34-country area of responsibility that included North America, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. Erikson was previously the deputy assistant secretary of defense for the western hemisphere at the U.S. Department of Defense, where he focused on defense modernization, security cooperation, counter-narcotics, climate resilience, cyber, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. In this capacity, Erikson served as a member of the senior executive service and managed a team of civilian and military defense professionals to provide policy guidance to the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Northern Command, and U.S. Southern Command.

Erikson's past government positions include special advisor to the Vice President in the White House, and senior advisor for congressional and inter-governmental affairs and senior advisor for policy in the State Department's Bureau for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

In recognition of his contributions to regional security, he has received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service, the U.S. State Department's Superior Honor Award, and the Inter-American Defense Board medal.

In addition to his U.S. government experience, Erikson has held senior positions in the private sector, think-tanks, and academia. He has published widely on a range of topics in international and Latin American and Caribbean affairs and testified before the U.S. Congress. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.