



## **Stephen M. Younger**

### **Biography**

Stephen M. Younger is the president of National Security Technologies, LLC, the manager and operator of the Nevada National Security Site and satellite facilities in California, New Mexico, Nevada, Hawaii, Washington, D.C., and Germany. He is also a senior policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and a faculty member at the University of Hawaii.

From 2001 to 2004, Younger was the director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, a component of the U.S. Department of Defense whose mission is to reduce the threat of weapons of mass destruction. His oversight responsibilities included arms control inspections, The Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, advanced weapons development, chemical and biological defense programs, and operations in Iraq.

Prior to government service, Younger was senior associate director for national security at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. He was responsible for assuring the safety and reliability of most of America's nuclear deterrent, and managed a wide array of capabilities and facilities ranging from basic research to plutonium manufacturing. Younger was a driving force in the development of a new approach to strategic forces and deterrence in the post Cold War era, one that emphasized reductions in the nuclear stockpile and greater use of conventional weapons for strategic applications. He was the founder and first director of the Center for International Security Affairs at Los Alamos and took a leading role in opening the Russian nuclear weapons institutes for international collaboration.

From 1982 to 1989, Younger was a nuclear weapons designer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, Calif., where he developed and oversaw the testing of several new concepts in nuclear explosives. He previously served as computational atomic theorist at the National Bureau of Standards in Gaithersburg, Md.

Younger has published more than 70 papers in physics, public policy, and anthropology. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and recipient of the Secretary of Defense Award for Outstanding Public Service. His book *Endangered Species: How We Can Avoid Mass Destruction and Build a Lasting Peace*, offers a comprehensive approach to reducing the threat from weapons of mass destruction. The book *The Bomb: A New History*, deals with the history and future of nuclear weapons. Younger's current research and writing centers on the nexus of leadership, interpersonal violence, and warfare in chiefdoms with a focus on Pacific island societies. A book on this subject is in preparation.

Younger earned his bachelor's degree in physics from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in 1973; a master's degree in physics from the University of Maryland in College Park, Md., in 1975; and a doctorate degree in physics from the University of Maryland in 1978. He resides in Las Vegas.