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Micky Celich Receives the 2025 W. Y. Smith Award for Excellence

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (May 2026) — Micky Celich, Information Systems Security Manager Team Lead in IDA’s Information Technology Directorate, received the 2025 Smith Award for Excellence. Named in honor of General William Y. Smith, who led IDA from late 1985 through late 1990, the award recognizes extraordinary individual or group contributions to IDA. The award is given to non-research exempt staff members who contribute mightily to our success.

“Micky’s efforts helped preserve IDA’s authority to operate a mission-critical system,” said IDA President Chas Richard. “With this award, we recognize her tremendous accomplishments.”

IDA underwent a Department of War inspection known as the Cyber Operational Readiness Assessment (CORA) – the newest and most rigorous cybersecurity evaluation framework. IDA was part of the first generation of organizations assessed under the CORA program, which meant relevant industry experience and support were limited. Micky embraced the challenge, showing exceptional leadership, technical acumen, strategic approach, excellent judgment, and an unwavering commitment to succeed as she guided a team of IT and security professionals to a successful outcome.

IDA is a nonprofit corporation that operates three federally funded research and development centers in the public interest. The company answers the most challenging U.S. security and science policy questions with objective analysis leveraging extraordinary scientific, technical and analytic expertise.

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