Dr. Charles F. McMillan  
*Director, Los Alamos National Laboratory*

Dr. McMillan became Director of Los Alamos National Laboratory and President of Los Alamos National Security, LLC, on June 1, 2011. The laboratory is a principal contributor to the Department of Energy’s programs to maintain the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile and reduce the international dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction. Los Alamos has an annual operating budget of approximately $2.1 billion, employees and contractors numbering some 10,000, and a 36-square-mile site of scientific laboratories, nuclear facilities, experimental capabilities, administration buildings, and utilities.

Since his appointment, Dr. McMillan has guided Los Alamos to continuing high levels of mission execution during times of shrinking federal budgets. In 2011, he created a senior management council implementing cost controls and efficiencies lab-wide. He has signed four annual letter reports to the President and Congress assessing the Los Alamos-designed weapons in the Nation’s nuclear stockpile: W76, W88 on board Trident Ballistic missile submarines, B61 gravity bombs, and W78 ICBM warheads on Minuteman III missiles. These 4 systems constitute 90 percent of the active nuclear deterrent. In 2012, Los Alamos debuted novel systems providing exponential improvements in data gathering for subcritical nuclear tests.

Before becoming Laboratory Director, Dr. McMillan served as the Principal Associate Director for Weapons Programs, responsible for the science, technology, engineering, and infrastructure enabling the laboratory to fulfill its nuclear deterrent mission. He directed the research that supported the technical analysis necessary to ensure the stockpile remains safe, secure, and effective. This included small-scale materials experiments through fully-integrated hydrotests that provided essential
validation data for modeling and simulation, in the absence of full-scale nuclear testing.

Dr. McMillan has 30 years of scientific and leadership experience in weapons science, stockpile certification, experimental physics, and computational science. His career spans both Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory. He started his career as an experimental physicist at Livermore in 1983. During his two decades there, he held a variety of research and management positions.

He holds a doctorate in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and bachelor’s degrees in mathematics and physics from Washington Adventist University. He has earned two Department of Energy Awards of Excellence, one of them for developing an innovative holographic tool that enhances the ability of scientists to predict nuclear performance.

He lives with his wife, Janet, in Los Alamos and has three adult children.
The Forrestal Lecture Series was established at the Naval Academy in May 1970 in honor of the late James V. Forrestal who, as one of the foremost proponents of seapower of our era, was instrumental in the development of the modern Navy.

Secretary Forrestal served in the Navy's flight program in World War I, leaving service as a lieutenant junior grade. He reentered government service in 1940 as an administrative assistant to President Roosevelt. Later that year, he was named Under Secretary of the Navy.

Long an advocate of naval supremacy, he was responsible for the remarkable logistical building of the Navy in the early war years. He became Secretary of the Navy in 1944, following the death of Frank Knox.

Secretary Forrestal took unprecedented strides toward establishing racial equality in the Navy. He also served as the chief architect of the vastly complicated merger of the War and Navy Departments into the National Military Establishment (later the Department of Defense). He was named the first Secretary of Defense by President Truman in 1947. The awesome burden of reorganization quickly took its toll, and Secretary Forrestal resigned for health reasons in 1948. He died one year later.

The purpose of this lecture series is to enhance the education, awareness, and appreciation of the Brigade of Midshipmen in the social, political and cultural dimensions of the Nation and the world. Featured are leading representatives from various walks of life - government, the arts, humor, literature, education, sports, politics, science, and other major fields on the national and international scene.

This evening's Forrestal Lecture is generously sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Finnigan (Class of '49) of Los Altos, California, and the Class of 1946 through charitable funds established at the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation. The Brigade of Midshipmen acknowledges this support with deep appreciation.