

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY  
FORRESTAL LECTURE SERIES



ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE ZAMBELLAS  
KCB, DSC, ADC, DL, FRAeS  
*First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff  
Royal Navy*

7:30 p.m.  
October 14, 2015  
ALUMNI HALL

# **ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE ZAMBELLAS KCB, DSC, ADC, DL, FRAeS**

*First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff  
Royal Navy*

The First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff is the Royal Navy's professional head and Chairman of the Navy Board. He is responsible to the Secretary of State for the fighting effectiveness, efficiency, and morale of the Naval Service, and supports the Secretary of State in the management and direction of the Armed Forces.

Appointed First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff in April 2013, Sir George Zambellas has, since 1980, enjoyed a diverse range of command and staff appointments throughout a career serving in the Royal Navy, Joint Organizations and the Ministry of Defense.

His early years were spent in Zimbabwe, before his family moved to the U.K. where he continued his education at Stowe School and Southampton University. A degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering at Southampton University nurtured a life-long interest in technology and engineering, but he forsook a subsequent career in the aerospace industry to pursue an ambition to fly with the Navy, qualifying as a Sea King Anti-Submarine helicopter pilot. In the course of three tours in frigates and carriers, he recorded 1,500 deck landings and 2,000 flying hours, converting to the Wasp and then Lynx helicopters.

He has commanded the Hunt Class Mine Countermeasures vessel, HMS Cattistock, with deployments to the Baltic and Mediterranean; the Type 23 frigate HMS Argyll in the course of a counter-narcotics deployment operating with U.S. and a range of other maritime forces; and in 1999, the Type 22 frigate HMS Chatham during its contribution to joint operations off Sierra Leone. In 2004, he returned to sea in command of the Royal Navy's Amphibious Task Group and in 2006,

he led the RN Battle staff contribution to the operation to evacuate civilians from Lebanon.

A graduate of the Higher Command and Staff Course, his staff appointments have included the Directorate of Defense Programs during the Strategic Defense Review charged with helping to shape the emerging maritime need within Defense's tri-service balance of investment. Between 2002 and 2004, as a Commodore, he served two Chiefs of the Defense Staff as Principal Staff Officer.

Promoted to Rear Admiral in 2006, he was entrusted with designing and delivering the Fleet's new approach to delivering maritime forces and support to operations, part of the Navy's continuing commitment to generating forces as efficiently as possible. Then serving as Commander, United Kingdom Maritime Force in 2007, he went on to the U.K.'s Permanent Joint Headquarters as Chief of Staff (Operations) where he supported the joint operational planning and delivery for operations in Afghanistan.

On promotion to Vice Admiral in 2011, George Zambellas was appointed as Deputy Commander-in-Chief Fleet, becoming Commander-in-Chief Fleet the following year on promotion to Admiral. In this role, he also took command responsibility for the Allied Maritime Command at Northwood as it was restructured to be the single Maritime Command within NATO.



## FORRESTAL LECTURE SERIES

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 members 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.*