

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

FORRESTAL LECTURE SERIES



**ADMIRAL JOHN M. RICHARDSON, USN**  
*Chief of Naval Operations*

7:30 p.m.  
September 12, 2016  
Alumni Hall

**ADMIRAL JOHN M. RICHARDSON, USN**  
**CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS**

**A**dmiral John Richardson graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in Physics. He holds master's degrees in Electrical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and National Security Strategy from the National War College.

At sea, Admiral Richardson served on USS Parche (SSN 683), USS George C. Marshall (SSBN 654) and USS Salt Lake City (SSN 716). He commanded USS Honolulu (SSN 718) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Admiral Richardson also served as commodore of Submarine Development Squadron (DEVRON) 12; commander, Submarine Group 8; commander, Submarine Allied Naval Forces South; deputy commander, U.S. 6th Fleet; chief of staff, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and U.S. Naval Forces Africa; commander, Naval Submarine Forces; and director of Naval Reactors.

His staff assignments include duty in the attack submarine division on the Chief of Naval Operations staff; naval aide to the President; prospective commanding officer instructor for Commander, Submarine Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet; assistant deputy director for Regional Operations on the Joint Staff; and director of Strategy and Policy at U.S. Joint Forces Command.

Admiral Richardson served on teams that have been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Navy Unit Commendation, and the Navy "E" Ribbon. He was awarded the Vice Admiral Stockdale Award for Inspirational Leadership for his time in command of USS Honolulu.

Admiral Richardson began serving as the 31st Chief of Naval Operations September 18, 2015.

## 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 the man 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 towards 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 series is to enhance the Brigade of Midshipmen's awareness and appreciation of the social, political, and cultural dimensions of the Nation and world. Featured are leading representatives from various disciplines—government, the arts, humor, literature, education, sports, politics, science, and other fields.



*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.*