

U.S. Naval Institute 2025 Board of Directors Ballot

Candidate Profiles



ADM Harry B. Harris Jr., USN (Ret.)

Admiral Harry Harris served as Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, from 2013 to 2015 and then as Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, until his retirement from the Navy in 2018. He subsequently was appointed U.S. ambassador to South Korea, serving until January 2021.

A 1978 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Admiral Harris was designated as a naval flight officer (NFO) in 1979. He commanded Patrol Squadron 46, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 1, Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, the U.S. 6th Fleet, and Striking and Support Forces NATO. He has served in every geographic combatant command region and

participated in Operations Earnest Will, Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Willing Spirit, and Odyssey Dawn. Admiral Harris' staff assignments include three tours on the Navy staff, including Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Communication Networks. He also served as the Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 2011–13. In this capacity he traveled globally as the Chairman's personal representative to the Secretary of State.

Admiral Harris has logged 4,400 flight hours, including more than 400 combat hours, in maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft. Prior to his retirement, he was the Navy's "Gray Owl," the NFO who had held this designation for the longest period, and the "Old Goat," the longest-serving Naval Academy graduate still on active duty.

He holds a master's of public administration from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and a master's degree in national security studies from Georgetown University. He was also an MIT Seminar 21 fellow for the 1999–2000 class.

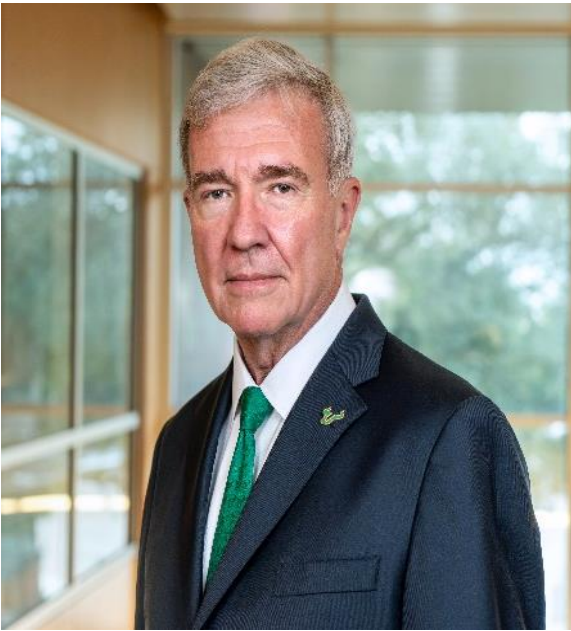


The Honorable Ellen M. Lord

Ms. Ellen Lord served as Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment from August 2017 to January 2021. Prior to her appointment, she was president and chief executive officer of Textron Systems, a multibillion-dollar company with products and services supporting defense, homeland security, aerospace, and infrastructure protection for clients around the world.

Ms. Lord is the former vice-chairman of the National Defense Industrial Association and has previously served on the boards of the U.S. India Business Council and the Defense Technology Initiative. She recently was appointed to the board of AAR, a global provider of aviation services, and serves as an advisor to a number of companies.

She holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Connecticut College and a master's degree in chemistry from the University of New Hampshire.



Gen Kenneth F. “Frank” McKenzie Jr., USMC (Ret.)

General (Ret) Kenneth F. “Frank” McKenzie, Jr. became the Executive Director of the University of South Florida’s Global and National Security Institute in May 2022. In July 2022, he also became the Executive Director of the Florida Center for Cybersecurity, also known as Cyber Florida. He is the former Commander, United States Central Command.

General McKenzie’s book, titled *The Melting Point: High Command and War in the 21st Century*, was published in June by the U.S. Naval Institute Press and details his three years

as commander of U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM).

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, upon graduation from The Citadel in 1979, General McKenzie was commissioned into the Marine Corps and trained as an infantry officer.

He has commanded at the platoon, company, battalion, Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), and component levels. As a lieutenant colonel, he commanded First Battalion, Sixth Marines. As the Commanding Officer of the 22d MEU (SOC), he led the MEU on combat deployments to Afghanistan in 2004 and Iraq in 2005-06. In 2006-07 he served as the Military Secretary to the 33rd and 34th Commandants of the Marine Corps.

Upon promotion to Brigadier General in July 2007, he served on the Joint Staff as a Deputy Director of Operations within the National Military Command Center. In June 2008, he was selected by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to be the Director of the Chairman's New Administration Transition Team (CNATT).

In this capacity, he coordinated the efforts of the Joint Staff and the combatant commands in preparing for and executing a wartime transition of administrations.

In June 2009, he reported to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul, Afghanistan, to serve as the Deputy to the Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS) for Stability. Upon his return from Afghanistan, in July 2010, he was assigned as the Director, Strategy, Plans, and Policy (J-5) for the U.S. Central Command. In August 2012, he reported to Headquarters Marine Corps to serve as the Marine Corps Representative to the Quadrennial Defense Review. In June 2014, he was promoted to Lieutenant General and assumed command of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Central Command.

In October 2015, he was assigned to the Joint Staff to serve as the Director, J-5, Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Staff.

In July 2017, he was named the Director, Joint Staff. General McKenzie was promoted to the grade of General and assumed command of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) in March

2019. He relinquished command of CENTCOM and retired from the Marine Corps on 1 April 2022, completing over 42 years of service.

General McKenzie is an honors graduate of the Armor Officer Advanced Course, Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the School of Advanced Warfighting. He was selected as a CMC Fellow in 1999 and served as a Senior Military Fellow within the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense University. He has a master's degree in teaching with a concentration in history. He is currently the President of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Applied Engineering at the University of South Florida, a Distinguished Senior Fellow on National Security at the Middle East Institute, a Member of the International Advisory Committee of the National Council on U.S. Arab relations, and a Member of the National Security Advisory Council, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. General McKenzie is also a Board member of the Warrior Legacy Ranch, a veterans health organization focused on preventing veteran suicide. In March 2024, he was named the Hertog Distinguished Fellow for the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA).



Hon. Sean J. Stackley

The Honorable Sean J. Stackley is the former acting Secretary of the Navy and former corporate vice president for strategic advanced programs and technology at **L3 Technologies** where he oversaw growth strategies intended to synchronize the company's technology investments with pursuit planning, mergers and acquisitions efforts.

Stackley stepped into the acting SECNAV role early in 2017 and previously served as the service branch's assistant secretary for research, development and acquisition for more than eight years.

He also provided advice to the Defense Department undersecretary for acquisition, technology and logistics before he entered the private sector.

His four-decade career also includes time as a professional staff member at the Senate Armed Services Committee, where he reviewed Navy and Marine Corps programs.

He also served as a Navy surface warfare officer in *USS John Young*, program manager of *LPD 17*, production officer for *USS Arleigh Burke* and project naval architect for the Canadian patrol frigate known as *HMCS Halifax*.



Matice Wright-Springer

Matice Wright-Springer earned a B.S. in physical science and general engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy. She holds an M.P.A. from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and an M.B.A. with a finance concentration from Johns Hopkins University's Carey Business School. She began her career in 1988, serving as the nation's first African American, female naval flight officer. She logged thousands of flight hours in both the EC-130 and the E-6 aircraft. After serving in the Navy, she was presidentially appointed to serve as a White House fellow at the Department of Treasury and later

as a member of the Senior Executive Service at the Department of Defense.

Her private sector experience has been with General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin, L3Harris, and ManTech International Corporation. Currently, Matice is a Senior Vice President and partner in Booz Allen Hamilton's Aerospace account. She leads the Integrated Missions Solutions sub-account with a focus on digital integration, next-generation data solutions, and digital transformation efforts for the U.S. Air Force. She currently serves on the United States Naval Academy's Distinguished Graduates selection panel, and she serves on the Advisory Council of the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society. Matice is an active member of CHIEF, a private network of women executive leaders.