



News Release: 26-02
For Immediate Release
Date: March 16, 2026

Adm. Charles A. Richard (Ret.) Joins IDA as New President

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (March 2026) — Retired U.S. Navy Adm. Charles “Chas” A. Richard has assumed duties as the President of IDA.

“I am deeply honored to join the IDA family and grateful for the opportunity to lead an organization with such a notable reputation for excellence,” said Richard.

A career submariner, Richard served in the U.S. Navy for more than 40 years, culminating in his role as the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command from 2019 to 2022. In this capacity, he was responsible for the global command and control of all strategic U.S. nuclear forces, overseeing a workforce of over 150,000 personnel focused on strategic deterrence, nuclear operations, and missile defense. Following his military retirement in January 2023, Richard transitioned to academia as the Schlesinger Distinguished Professor at the University of Virginia's Miller Center.

Richard holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Alabama. He also holds a master's degree in engineering management from the Catholic University of America and a master's degree in national security studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

IDA's Board of Trustees elected Richard to succeed Gen. Norton “Norty” A. Schwartz, USAF (Ret.) as the company's top executive. Norty is retiring after six years directing IDA's operations and extensive research portfolio; and more than 50 years of public and private service to the nation.

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.

Institute for Defense Analyses

Herman Phillips | (703) 845-2371 | hphillip@ida.org | ida.org

