



News Release: 25-55
For Immediate Release
Date: October 15, 2025

Adm. Charles Richard (Retired) To Serve as IDA's Next President

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (October 2025) — IDA's Board of Trustees selected Admiral Charles "Chas" Richard (retired) to serve as IDA's next President, effective March 14, 2026.

"Chas is a distinguished leader and strategist," said Debby McWhinney, Chair of the IDA Board of Trustees. "The Board looks forward to working with him to continue the IDA mission."

Richard brings more than 40 years of service in the U.S. Navy, 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.

"Having benefitted from IDA's research throughout my career, I am excited to join this world class organization and to continue to attack our country's most challenging national security issues," Richard shared. He will succeed retired U.S. Air Force General Norton A. Schwartz, who is retiring in March after six years of strong leadership as IDA's President.

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