

RDML Price Takes the Helm at Office of Naval Intelligence

FROM THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RDML Gene Price took the helm as Commander, Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) at a ceremony marked by tradition, pride and honor on 24 Jan at the National Maritime Intelligence Center. He previously served as Deputy Commander U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. 10th Fleet. RDML Price retains command of Naval Information Force Reserve.

The ceremony began with a change of directorship of the National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office (NMIO) from RADM Bob Sharp to RDML Price, and was followed by the change of command of ONI. It also served as a frocking ceremony in which Sharp was elevated to the rank of vice admiral. Sharp will assume duties as director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) in February.

During the ceremony, Sharp was praised by Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence Susan Gordon. "Your accomplishments here have been nothing short of extraordinary," said Gordon, who previously served as deputy director of NGA. She jokingly admonished Sharp to make sure he did his best in his new role. "I love NGA," she said. "Please don't mess it up."

VADM Matthew J. Kohler, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare/Director of Naval Intelligence, read a handwritten letter from CNO Admiral John Richardson congratulating Sharp, and extending his own compliments to RDML Price for being the right man for the job.

At the ceremony, Sharp was awarded the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal for his accomplishments at the NMIO and his contributions to the Intelligence Community. The award was signed by Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats.

Sharp then passed the helm to Price. "You are inheriting a tremendous organization," Sharp said. He next read his orders, which directed him to report no later than February 2019 for duty as Director, NGA.

Assuming command, Price said he is happy to be joining ONI and thanked Sharp for providing good leadership and guidance. "Bob told me nothing needs to be fixed here," Price said. "This place is protecting the nation in ways the nation will never really appreciate."

Sharp has often said that anyone who works at ONI "can check out any time you like, but you can never leave," borrowing from the lyrics of the popular 1970s Eagle's song *Hotel California*. With that in mind, Price said, "You have given me a magnificent turnover... The power of people will continue to be our priority. I'm thrilled to be in Hotel California and will keep it going."



RDML Gene Price assumes directorship of the National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office (NMIO) and the Office of Naval Intelligence.

