



The Amphibious Warship Industrial Base Coalition (AWIBC) is pleased to announce the appointment of a new chairman – Rear Admiral Sam Perez (Retired), Vice President of Military Customer Affairs – Navy at Rolls-Royce North America. Also nominated to the AWIBC board are the following four members: Paul Roden, Vice President of Washington Operations at Fairbanks Morse; Mark Haller, President of Tri-Tec Manufacturing; Thomas Eccles, Chief Executive Officer of Trident Maritime Systems; and George Kampstra, Vice President of Defense Relations at Rolls-Royce North America.

“AWIBC is thrilled to gain the leadership of Rear Admiral Sam Perez (Retired) as well as the other distinguished members of the board,” said AWIBC Executive Director Joe Farren. “Illustrating the many ways in which amphibious warships are the most versatile and valuable ship in the Navy fleet will continue to be our job and having these accomplished leaders as part of the effort will only make us more impactful. I want to personally thank Terry McKnight for his exceptional leadership over the past several years and we look forward to continuing to leverage his experience and deep knowledge moving forward.”

Prior to retiring from active duty in the U.S. Navy in August 2016, RADM Perez (Ret.) served as the U.S. Navy’s 65th President of the Board of Inspection and Survey where he led a team of experts who assessed the material readiness of the fleet by performing comprehensive inspections on shipboard systems. He is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and holds a Master’s Degree in Strategic Planning from the Naval Postgraduate School. Further, he was a Federal Executive Fellow at MIT and a Senior Navy Fellow at the Strategic Studies Group. RADM Perez (Ret.) is excited to get started in his new role as Chairman of AWIBC.

Since its creation in 2013, AWIBC has been committed to showcasing the value and importance of amphibious warships. As AWIBC enters the second half of 2019, it looks forward to working closely with its new executive leadership team to highlight the critical role these great ships – and the men and women who build them – play in protecting and enhancing our country.

To read more information about our new AWIBC Board members, please see below:



Captain Paul Roden (Retired), Vice President of Washington Operations at Fairbanks Morse, LLC

Since his retirement from the U.S. Coast Guard in July 2011, Captain Roden (Retired) has been responsible for company communications with Congress and Washington customers at Fairbanks Morse, LLC. While serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, CPT Roden (Ret.) was the Chief of Naval Engineering from 2008 to 2011 where he was responsible for policy development and budget management in support of sustaining the readiness of all USCG cutter and boats.



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Rear Admiral Thomas Eccles (Retired), Chief Executive Officer of Trident Maritime Systems

Rear Admiral Eccles (Retired) became Chief Executive Officer of Trident Maritime Systems, LLC in 2014 after retiring from over 32 years of service in the U.S. Navy in 2013. While in the U.S. Navy, RADM Eccles (Ret.) was the Chief Engineer for ships, submarines, and aircraft carriers from 2008 through 2013, and he held other commands in ship design and construction.



George Kampstra, Vice President of Defense Relations at Rolls-Royce North America

In his position at Rolls-Royce North America, George Kampstra is responsible for managing and supporting all aspects of the company's relationship with the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard and their naval marine programs. George has represented Rolls-Royce's government business sector in Washington D.C. since 2010