

## **Military Chess Committee Annual Report for 2024-2025**

The 65th U.S. Armed Forces Open was held October 12-14, 2024, at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. The tournament was expertly and superbly organized by NTD/IA Commander Robert Getty, USN (Ret.). Ninety-six (96) players competed with 86 in the Armed Forces Open Section and 10 in the Veterans Section. FM Christopher Shen, US Air Force Academy, topped the field with a perfect score of 5.0. Second through fourth places went to Andrew Peraino (US Navy), Addison Lee (US Army, West Point), and Enrico Balmaceda (US Navy), respectively. The Service Team Championship went to the US Air Force Team of FM Christopher Shen, Charles M. Unruh, Joshua Pym, Dan Ranario, Robert Keough, and Leroy Hill, with the US Navy Team behind by a mere 8 points! In the Veterans Section, Mitch Vergara (US Navy) took clear first place with 4/5. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Superintendent, staff, and cadets of the US Naval Academy. We were honored to see Vice Admiral Yvette Davids, who stopped by the event on Sunday afternoon. The venue was—in a word—spectacular! The Chief Arbiter was NTD/IA Mike Hoffpauir.

The 66th U.S. Armed Forces Open is planned for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY, the weekend of October 11-13, 2025. This is the first time the tournament has been held at the USMMA. Future USAFO hosts/sites include: 2026—US Air Force / possibly in Orlando, FL; 2027—US Marine Corps / location TBD; 2028-US Navy / location TBD. The “host service” for this event varies each year.

The 2024 (34th) NATO Chess Championship was held in Rhodes, Greece, from October 20-24, 2024. The seven (7) round, FIDE-rated event had 118 players from 17 NATO nations competing at a time control of Game-90, with 30 second increment. The Supreme Sports Council of the Hellenic Armed Forces organized the tournament at the gorgeous Rodos Palace Hotel, a breathtaking venue! First Place Team honors went to the host nation, Greece, with Germany edging out Poland on tie-breaks for second place. The US Team, which placed fourth overall, consisted of FM Patrick Emilio Aizpurua, Andrew Jeselson, Jason Loving, and Andrew Peraino, with both FM Aizpurua and Jeselson scoring an impressive 5/7. Building the US team was expertly managed again this year by John Farrell and David Hater. The 2025 (35th) NATO Chess Championship will be held at the Polish Air Force University in Deblin, Poland. The forecasted event dates are August 17-23, 2025.

Current US Chess Military Chess Committee membership: Chair: Michael E. Donovan, Army Rep.: Mike Hoffpauir; Navy Rep.: Erick Toribio; Air Force Rep.: Charles Hatherill; Marine Corps Rep.: John Farrell; Space Force Rep.: Vacant; US Chess Executive Board Liaisons: David Hater and Chuck Unruh.