

Lee Hsi-min

Admiral Lee Hsi-min (retired) is a Senior Fellow at the Project 2049 Institute. He previously served as the Chief of the General Staff of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Armed Forces from 2017 to 2019. In this position, he coordinated the policy of carrying out the Overall Defense Concept (ODC) and improving military exercises and the preparedness of joint operations. Adm. Lee retired in July 2019 after 42 years of service in the ROC Navy. Before his retirement, he was awarded the Order of the Cloud and Banner with Special Grand Cordon by President Tsai Ing-wen in recognition of his service in enhancing the overall capabilities of Taiwan's military. As a former submarine captain, Adm. Lee became the first commissioned officer to serve as the Vice Minister (Policy) of National Defense from 2016 to 2017 and the third Commander of the ROC Navy with submarine experience (2015-2016). He was among the first personnel to coordinate the transfer of Chien Lung-class (Zwaardvis) submarines from the Netherlands and established an advanced submarine personnel training system before he became a submarine operations officer and captain. As a submarine captain from 1995 to 1997, he and his crew were deployed to prepare for the potential encounter with the People's Liberation Army Navy fleets during the Third Taiwan Strait Crisis in 1996. Adm. Lee graduated from the 1977 class of the ROC Naval Academy and the 1992 class of the Naval Command and Staff College of ROC National Defense University. He also finished his correspondence education at the 1998 class of the United States Naval War College.