



**Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM, PhD**

**Chief of Staff, Óglaigh na hÉireann**

**Defence Forces Ireland**

Vice Admiral Mark Mellett is the Chief of Staff of Óglaigh na hÉireann, the Irish Defence Forces, having been promoted to the appointment by the Irish Government on 29 September 2015.

Prior to his current position, Vice Admiral Mellett was the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces where he had responsibility for materiel and support functions, including personnel, finance and logistics in the Army, Air Corps and Naval Service. He has thirty eight years service, much of it seagoing, including three naval commands.

Vice Admiral Mellett perviously served as Flag Officer Commanding the Irish Naval Service. During shore rotations he held appointments in Naval Headquarters, Naval Operations and Support Commands. For over two decades he has been a change leader in the Irish Defence Forces, contributing to its ongoing transformation, positioning the forces in a post-modern setting. He has served as Head of Naval Plans and Policy, Commandant of the Naval College and Associate Head of the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI).

In addition to citations for service in Afghanistan (2004) and Lebanon (1989) in 1994 Vice Admiral Mellett was decorated by the Irish State, receiving “The Distinguished Service Medal (DSM)” for intercepting a major maritime narcotics shipment.

Vice Admiral Mellett is a founding member of the Irish Maritime and Energy Resource Cluster (IMERC) and a member of its governing authority. IMERC serves as an ‘Innovation Network,’ and acts as a stimulant for enterprise and job creation in the maritime and renewable energy spheres. It has a particular focus on marine energy, shipping logistics and transport, maritime security and safety and yachting products and services.

Vice Admiral Mellett has a PhD (2009) in Political Science from the National University of Ireland, Galway and M Com (2004) in Government and Public Policy from University College Cork. He has been a Visiting Professor at Liverpool Hope University (UK). He is a distinguished graduate of the US Naval War College, Newport RI (1999); the Irish Command and Staff College (1998) and the Royal Naval College Greenwich (1989). Vice Admiral Mellett has a keen interest in research and has been a member of the European Security Research Innovation Forum (ESRIF). He has published on innovation, security, governance and maritime affairs.

He is a former naval diver and enjoys running, cycling and fitness. He is married to Liz and has four children.