

# UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

## NEWS

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## Public Affairs Office

121 BLAKE ROAD, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21402

[MEDIARELATIONS@USNA.EDU](mailto:MEDIARELATIONS@USNA.EDU)

PHONE: (410) 293-2292

### Media Contacts:

Judy Campbell  
Deborah Goode

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### NAVAL ACADEMY ANNOUNCES SPRING SEMESTER SHIFRIN CHAIR

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – Retired Army Maj. Gen. David Zabecki, Ph.D., joins the Naval Academy History Department for the spring semester as the Leo A. Shifrin Chair in Naval and Military History.

The Dr. Leo A. Shifrin Chair is an endowed rotating visiting professorship. It was endowed by the Viola S. Shifrin Trust in 1997 "to create and maintain an endowed Distinguished Professorship in Naval and Military History at the United States Naval Academy." Holders of the Shifrin Chair are distinguished naval and military historians who teach and pursue research while in residence in the Naval Academy history department for one or two semesters. Bringing their research into the classroom, they demonstrate to midshipmen the relevance of naval and military history to their development as professional naval officers. As the 2012 Shifrin Chair, Zabecki will be teaching courses on World War I and on the relationship between military history and the war novel.

Zabecki enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966, served in as an infantry rifleman in Vietnam and received a direct commission as a field artillery officer in 1975. Zabecki received his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Xavier University; a master's in systems management from Florida Institute of Technology; and a Ph.D. in military history from the Royal Military College of Science, Cranfield University, United Kingdom. He is the author of seven books in military history, has written extensively for professional journals, magazines, and encyclopedias, and served as editor of *Vietnam* magazine, the only periodical dedicated specifically to the history of the Vietnam War.

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## **2-2-2-2 Shifrin-Zabecki**

“The history department is excited to have so eminent a military historian on our faculty,” said Naval Academy history department chair Richard Abels. “Although he was chosen to fill the Shifrin Chair on the basis of his outstanding record as a scholar, Dr. Zabecki’s distinguished career as an Army officer is an added benefit,” Professor Abels added. “He embodies for the midshipmen the ideal of the well-educated officer that our institution promotes.”

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