



THE OSS SOCIETY®

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ADMIRAL ERIC T. OLSON, USN TO RECEIVE THE WILLIAM J. DONOVAN AWARD®

McLean, VA – April 5, 2011 - Admiral Eric T. Olson, USN, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), has been selected to receive the 2011 William J. Donovan Award®. This is the first time that the award will be given to a commander of USSOCOM. Admiral Olson, a 1973 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, has served operationally in an Underwater Demolition Team, SEAL Team, SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team, Special Boat Squadron, and at the Naval Special Warfare Development Group. He has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and the Silver Star. The William J. Donovan Award®, which is named in honor of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) founder, has been presented to four Directors of Central Intelligence and three U.S. Presidents. Its most recent recipients include Ross Perot, General David Petraeus, and MG John Singlaub, USA (Ret.), Chairman of The OSS Society. The award will be presented in Washington, DC on October 15, 2011.

In announcing Admiral Olson's selection, OSS Society President Charles Pinck said: "As one tracks the evolution from the 'glorious amateurs' of General Donovan's OSS to the 'quiet professionals' of today's USSOCOM, Admiral Olson stands at the pinnacle of this transformation. Admiral Olson has led USSOCOM brilliantly during a critical time in this nation's history when our Special Operations forces have carried an increasingly heavy burden. In presenting him with the William J. Donovan Award®, we wish to recognize his visionary leadership, courage, dedication, innovative ideas, and lifelong service the United States. These qualities are reminiscent of General William J. Donovan and his leadership of the OSS."

The OSS Society celebrates the historic accomplishments of the Office of Strategic Services during World War II - the predecessor to the Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. Special Operations Forces - and educates the American public regarding the continuing importance of strategic intelligence to the preservation of freedom in this country and around the world. To learn more about The OSS Society and the William J. Donovan Award®, please visit www.ossociety.org.

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