



Farewell Admiral

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<https://media.defense.gov/2024/Mar/08/2003409220/-1/-1/0/240306-D-IF881-4002.JPG/>

This analysis draws inspiration from the following articles:

- Andrea Muratore, “*Via i capi di Stato Maggiore e Marina: la rivoluzione di Trump nelle Forze Armate USA*” del 22 febbraio 2025 e pubblicato da Inside Over all’indirizzo: <https://it.insideover.com/difesa/via-i-capi-di-stato-maggiore-e-marina-la-rivoluzione-di-trump-nelle-forze-armate-usa.html>
- Heater Mongilio e Sam Lagrone, Joint Chiefs chair CQ Brown, CNO Franchetti relieved, VCNO Kilby to klead in interim” del 22 febbraio 2025 e pubblicato da USNI

all'indirizzo: <https://news.usni.org/2025/02/21/joint-chiefs-chair-cq-brown-cno-franchetti-relieved>

Admiral Franchetti

During the recent symposium of the Navies of the Mediterranean and Black Sea in Venice, we had the privilege of meeting Admiral Lisa Franchetti. Her charisma, her friendliness, and her openness to dialogue immediately struck us. Despite her role of great responsibility and the complex context, her words were always thoughtful, the result of profound intellectual honesty.

Her personal story, from a journalism graduate at Northwestern University to the top of the U.S. Navy, is a journey of dedication and competence. With nearly twenty years of operational experience in all fleets, she has commanded at every level, demonstrating an innate leadership ability.

We particularly appreciated her Italian origins, which made our meeting even more special. Her charismatic qualities, combined with sharp intelligence and deep humanity, left an indelible impression. At a time when Admiral Franchetti is leaving active service, we felt it was our duty to remember her, emphasizing not only her respectable curriculum but above all her human qualities and her positive impact.

A Revolutionary and Unjustly Interrupted Leadership

The recent reorganization at the military top brass in the United States has placed Admiral Lisa Franchetti at the center of attention, not only for her role as the first woman to head Naval Operations of the U.S. Navy, but also for her sudden and controversial removal. This event has sparked a wave of reactions, raising questions about the direction of American military policies and the actual assessment of professional skills versus political considerations.

A Change of Direction and Its Motivations. Beyond Appearances

The decision of the new president to remove Admiral Franchetti, along with General Charles C.Q. Brown, was officially attributed to a change of direction in military policies, with particular reference to the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives promoted by Admiral Franchetti. However, this explanation appears reductive and does not do justice to the complexity of the situation. Many observers believe that her removal was motivated by a combination of factors, including the desire to exert greater political control over the Navy, the need to demonstrate a change of course from the previous administration, and perhaps a certain reluctance to accept female leadership in a traditionally male-dominated environment.

A Leadership of Excellence and Tangible Results. Beyond Stereotypes

Despite her removal, it is undeniable that Admiral Franchetti led the U.S. Navy through a period of significant challenges, achieving important results. Her leadership was characterized by a pragmatic and direct approach, with a strong focus on the well-being of personnel and fleet readiness. Under her leadership, the Navy reached its recruiting goals in fiscal year 2024, thanks to improvements in processes, a result that testifies to her ability to face and overcome difficulties.

"Project 33". A Strategic Vision for the Future in an Evolving World

Admiral Franchetti's legacy remains tangible in "Project 33," an ambitious modernization plan aimed at strengthening the U.S. Navy in countering potential threats in the Indo-Pacific. This plan, presented at a time of increasing geopolitical tension, testifies to her strategic vision and her ability to anticipate future challenges. "Project 33" is not only a technological modernization plan, but also a cultural renewal project, aimed at promoting greater inclusion and diversity within the Navy.

An Injustice and an Example of Leadership. A Model for the Future

The removal of Admiral Franchetti was perceived by many as an injustice, motivated by political reasons rather than an evaluation of her professional skills. However, despite the injustice suffered, Admiral Franchetti remains an example of leadership for future generations of naval officers. Her humanity, her competence, and her dedication to serving the country have left an indelible mark on the history of the United States Navy. Her story reminds us that true leadership is not defined by power or prestige, but by the ability to inspire and guide others, even in the face of adversity.

Implications for Italy and the Italian Navy. An Opportunity for Reflection

The removal of Admiral Franchetti has significant implications for Italy and the Italian Navy. In particular:

- **Strengthening Cooperation:** Italy could seize the opportunity to intensify bilateral cooperation with the U.S., particularly with the Navy, at a time of transition.
- **Strategic Adaptation:** The Italian Navy will have to carefully monitor changes in U.S. Navy strategies and priorities, adjusting its own planning accordingly.
- **Lessons from U.S. Challenges:** The challenges faced by the U.S. Navy, such as recruitment and resource management, offer points of reflection for the Italian Navy.
- **Procurement and Spending Review Policies:** The review of procurement and spending policies enacted by the new U.S. government could be a model for Italy, offering the opportunity to optimize resources and improve efficiency.

Conclusions and Recommendations. A Call to Action

The removal of Admiral Franchetti represents a turning point in the leadership of the U.S. Navy. Her modernization initiatives and the results achieved in recruitment testify to her commitment and competence. Italy and its Navy will have to carefully follow future developments and seize opportunities for collaboration with the U.S.

However, it is important that Italy does not limit itself to passively observing events, but seizes the opportunity to initiate an in-depth reflection on its own military policies and the need to promote leadership based on competence, integrity, and inclusion. Admiral Franchetti's example reminds us that the true strength of a nation lies in the ability to value the talent and potential of all its citizens, regardless of gender or origin.