Recognizing New Leaders
in Intelligence & National Security

2024 INSA
CHARLIE ALLEN
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS

Building a Stronger Intelligence Community
AGENDA

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Welcome Reception

Opening Remarks
Letitia A. Long
INSA Chairwoman of the Board

Keynote Address
Tonya Wilkerson
Deputy Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Awards Presentation

Celebratory Dessert Reception

Share your favorite moments from tonight using the hashtag #INSAachievement
The six awards recognize meaningful contributions from all sectors of the national security community:

**EDWIN H. LAND**
Industry Award

**JOHN W. WARNER**
Homeland Security Award

**WILLIAM O. STUDEMAN**
Military Award

**RICHARD J. KERR**
Government Award

**SIDNEY D. DRELL**
Science & Technology Award

**JOAN A. DEMPSEY**
Mentorship Award

Since 2010, INSA has presented the Achievement Awards to recognize outstanding leadership, mentorship, and contributions to U.S. intelligence, national security, and homeland security. The recipients are early and mid-career professionals, for whom the Achievement Awards often represent the first formal, public recognition of their service to the nation.

Although missions and requirements vary within respective award categories, common selection criteria include leadership, team building, mentorship, exceptional proficiency, and outsized influence within one's organization.

In 2023, INSA changed the program name to The Charlie Allen Achievement Awards to honor Charlie’s lasting impact on the intelligence and national security workforce.

Tonya P. Wilkerson serves as the ninth Deputy Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. She brings a wealth of knowledge and over three decades of experience across the Intelligence Community, including leadership skills, experience across multiple mission areas, and deep expertise in the space sector.

Previously, Ms. Wilkerson served as the Associate Deputy Director of the CIA for Science and Technology/Strategy. She also held prominent positions within the NRO spanning a range of activities, including research and development, acquisitions, and operations. Ms. Wilkerson served as a change management leader within the NRO during a time of significant and complex structural transition.

She held simultaneous leadership roles in the NRO and CIA's Directorate of Science & Technology. Ms. Wilkerson successfully leveraged her technical skills, combined with her background in space operations, to enhance technical capabilities within the DS&T.

Ms. Wilkerson holds a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and a master's degree in engineering management from George Washington University.
EDWIN H. LAND INDUSTRY AWARD

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2018
Patrick Biltgen, PhD
Vencore

David Lindenbaum
In-Q-Tel CosmiQ Works

2019
Adam Van Etten, PhD
In-Q-Tel CosmiQ Works

2020
Abe Usher
Black Cape

2021
Darek Kawamoto
HawkEye 360

2022
Jaime Arribas
Starkey-El
The Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab

2023
Sarah Vaughn McPeak
Maxar

EDWIN H. LAND (1909 - 1991) was an American scientist and inventor whose contributions to the fields of light polarization and photography revolutionized American culture, as well as intelligence gathering. Mr. Land’s pioneering research led to the development of Polaroid film, an invention that would lead him to co-found what would become the Polaroid Corporation. Mr. Land and his company developed several tools for the U.S. military leading up to and during World War II, including an early version of night-vision goggles and the Vectograph, a viewing system that revealed enemy camouflage in aerial photography. Mr. Land and Polaroid also spearheaded aerial reconnaissance at the start of the Cold War, playing a major role in the development of the Lockheed U-2 spy plane and the first spy satellites.

ABOUT EDWIN H. LAND

Special thanks to the INSA Intelligence Champions Council for their support of this event and the Achievement Awards Selection Committee for all their time and effort.

Selection Committee Members
Joey Boutte, Quantum Technical Associates, LLC
Kellene Ecker, LMI
Tony Frazier
Sabina Horne, BMNT
Wyetta Morrow, Collins Aerospace
Vimesh Patel, World Wide Technology
Isaac Porche, Johns Hopkins University APL
Mary Quinn, Deloitte
Robert Sharp, B Sharp – Global Solutions
Suzanne Wilson Heckenberg, INSA
John Doyon, INSA
Bishop Garrison, INSA

ABOUT THE INSA INTELLIGENCE CHAMPIONS COUNCIL (ICC)

The ICC strives to strengthen and grow the IC workforce by advising, mentoring, advocating for, and fostering dialogue among professionals across organizations and experience levels who are interested or engaged in intelligence-related careers.
Jennifer Finley is a standout leader known for her transformative impact in complex communication challenges. An active leader with a passion for team building, Ms. Finley develops and manages a portfolio of communications technologies to support DoD initiatives while leading and collaborating on high-performing internal and external teams.

Notably, she led a vital Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) project, overseeing evaluation and seamless integration of innovative communication technology. Ms. Finley led the evaluation of capabilities, authored multiple after-action reports, and delivered an exceptional executive-level briefing. Her adept leadership ensured the project’s successful conclusion and facilitated the seamless transition of technologies to other government entities, solidifying trust between APL and external partners. Ms. Finley’s pivotal role secured APL’s involvement in a groundbreaking DARPA program within the Adaptive Capabilities Office.

In July 2022, she was named rotational assistant program manager of APL’s Cyber Operations Science and Technology program, expanding her responsibilities to include overseeing the execution of multiple DARPA and DoD projects. Ms. Finley develops overall technical and programmatic strategy for these efforts, managing leading edge technical work and serving as an innovative leader who can work closely with sponsors and collaborate effectively with external organizations.

Beyond technical prowess, she champions diversity and inclusion initiatives, driving efforts to foster an inclusive environment within APL’s Innovation and Collaboration program. Ms. Finley’s advocacy for affinity groups and presentations at engineering professional society conferences exemplify her commitment to inclusivity and innovation. She is an exemplary mentor and leader, widely recognized for her ability to forge connections with her team, understand individual aspirations, and advocate for opportunities on their behalf.

Jennifer Finley’s accomplishments reflect her as an accomplished engineer, an insightful leader, and a team-oriented problem solver, consistently elevating the landscape of technological innovation and national security.

Julia Buffinton’s exceptional work ethic, collaborative spirit, and data-driven leadership have significantly enhanced the Defense Intelligence Agency’s capacity to recruit and retain key personnel for critical operations.

As a leader within the Strategic Workforce Analytics (SWA) branch, she spearheaded the expansion of SWA from 6 to 16 members, showcasing her ability to communicate the team’s role to mission outcomes. Notably, Ms. Buffinton orchestrated the team’s shift from manual data analytics to automated workflows using Python and Tableau, enhancing accuracy, auditability, and efficiency in producing analytics.

Her initiative and ingenuity were hailed as game-changers and her impeccable time management skills and ability to stay focused inspiring. Ms. Buffinton’s management of the contract team and ability to foster a collaborative and productive environment were instrumental in achieving quick wins and advancing the modernization mission.

She fosters collaboration not only within SWA but with other offices at DIA, such as the manpower planning office. These collaborative efforts have been hailed as instrumental in sharing best practices and facilitating technical exchanges on common problems, strengthening the collective mission.

Ms. Buffinton organizes brown bag sessions on technical topics, covering areas like version control, data science techniques, machine learning concepts, and coding best practices. These sessions elevate the team’s knowledge base and empower them to apply these skills effectively in their day-to-day work.

Ms. Buffinton’s commitment to fostering a positive team culture shines through her actions. She actively participates in team-building activities and conducts regular one-on-one meetings, ensuring balanced workloads and maintaining high morale across the team.

Julia Buffinton’s exemplary leadership, analytic expertise, and positive attitude have earned her the respect of peers and leadership and significantly enhanced our national security.
THE HONORABLE JOHN W. WARNER (1927 - 2021) was a prominent, influential voice on national security during his 30 years in the U.S. Senate. He served as Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services for three periods; he was also Vice Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence and a member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Prior to public office, he served as Secretary of the Navy under President Richard Nixon. Sen. Warner’s unique understanding of intelligence collection and analysis, and the critical role of intelligence to inform policymakers, made him a highly respected champion of intelligence budget and policy matters. In 2008, Senator Warner became the first recipient of the National Intelligence Distinguished Public Service Medal.

ABOUT JOHN W. WARNER

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2018
Lt Adrienne Walsh
Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY)

2019
Saeben Haverington
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Philip Haddad
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

2020
Franklin Mosca
FBI, San Antonio Field Office

2021
Victoria Rossi
CISA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

2022
Shadi Elreda
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

2023
Miyako Yerick
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Amanda Nashed is an integral member of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia Office of Intelligence (OI) analytical operations, adeptly processing diverse information sources, evaluating, and de-conflicting data. In this capacity, she provides actionable and timely assessments to operational command for deployment decisions.

In just under four years, Ms. Nashed revolutionized intelligence operations, instituting a robust system for analysis and assessment where none existed before. Her strategic approach to reviewing and evaluating vast amounts of data unearthed crucial intelligence gaps, prompting improvements in information collection and the recruitment of human sources.

During critical incidents like the American truckers’ planned blockade mimicking the Canadian protests, Ms. Nashed’s swift action and detailed reporting, in collaboration with local, regional, and federal law enforcement partners, prevented potential escalation. Her adept handling of the African Leaders Summit’s security showcased her ability to navigate complex situations, mitigating protests and ensuring a peaceful conclusion through meticulous research and collaboration with government partners.

Ms. Nashed’s expertise in analyzing events like the Russian/Ukraine war and the Iranian Revolution has been invaluable. Not confined to a desk, she actively responds to critical incidents, providing crucial information to deploying units on the ground.

Her exceptional dedication, integrity, and 24/7 commitment to the mission set her apart from peers. Ms. Nashed’s energetic approach has forged strong partnerships across law enforcement and homeland security sectors in the DMV area, significantly bolstering public safety and national security efforts. Her credibility is such that senior officers regularly seek her counsel on crucial matters, highlighting the profound trust and respect she commands.

Amanda Nashed’s exceptional work bridges the gap between intelligence and law enforcement communities, earning her respect and recognition as an outstanding asset in ensuring our homeland security.
ABOUT WILLIAM O. STUDEMAN

ADMIRAL BILL STUDEMAN, USN (RETIRED) has had a decorated career in the U.S. Navy, Intelligence Community, and the private sector. He served as director of the National Security Agency from 1988 to 1992, following three years as director of Naval Intelligence. He then joined the CIA, serving as deputy director, with two extended periods as acting director. In 1995, he retired from the U.S. Navy after 32 years. In 2004, President George W. Bush appointed him to the commission examining the intelligence on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. He retired from Northrop Grumman Corporation, where he was vice president and deputy general manager of mission systems, in 2005.

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2018
LT Rachel O. Carter, USN
U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)

2019
Capt. Nicholas R.
D’Andrea, USAF
National Reconnaissance Office

2020
TSgt William N.
Haskell, USAF
National Reconnaissance Office

2021
Maj. Arturo A. “Jay”
Tibayan, Jr., USA
National Security Council,
The White House

2022
MSgt Elizabeth L.
Harris, USAF
National Reconnaissance Office

2023
MSgt Josef Stefan
Margetiak, USAF
U.S. Space Force

LCDR IRIS KAKU, USN

Chief of Analysis, Indications and Warning
U.S. Navy, Pacific Fleet HQ

LCDR Kaku has demonstrated unparalleled abilities in working across organizational boundaries and aligning national security priorities with mission objectives. At Pacific Fleet headquarters, her role as the acting director of the Maritime Intelligence Operations Center involved adeptly managing a large team spread across multiple organizations and time-zones, enabling the Pacific Fleet Intelligence Federation to track numerous adversary ships and aircraft with an exceptional 97% accountability rate for key threat units. LCDR Kaku’s dedication to organizational excellence is evident in her initiatives to prevent single points of failure, conceptualizing essential operational intelligence documents, establishing training protocols, and innovating new intelligence methodologies.

During critical periods of heightened tension in the vicinity of the Taiwan Strait and after provocations by North Korea and Russia, LCDR Kaku’s leadership in operational intelligence directly influenced decision-making at both theater and national levels. Her work profoundly impacted the Pacific Fleet Commander’s daily decision-making, personally briefing Fleet and Theater leadership over 200 times to inform the Commander’s risk calculus, operational planning, and war strategy.

While at Special Operations Command, Pacific LCDR Kaku lead the establishment of a new OSINT cell which significantly increased intelligence production, incorporating machine learning and social media analysis to track non-traditional actors effectively. Moreover, her efforts in reevaluating terrorist organizations directly led to the elimination of SOCPAC’s top target, the ISIS Emir for East Asia, showcasing her impact in counter-terrorism efforts.

LCDR Kaku epitomizes servant leadership. Her calm and thoughtful approach cultivates exceptional performance in her teams, earning her pivotal leadership positions in crucial, no-fail missions across commands. She directly oversees dozens of young intelligence professionals, many navigating their first experiences away from home, and has skillfully molded these novice sailors into a unified, responsible team. LCDR Iris Kaku’s exemplary leadership mirrors that of a seasoned senior intelligence officer and makes her an exceptionally worthy recipient of this award.
The Honorable Richard J. Kerr

served as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1989 to 1992, including a term as acting director. He offered critical insight and leadership at a time of global uncertainty that included the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the beginning of U.S. military operations in Iraq. Mr. Kerr began his career at CIA as an analyst at the height of the Cold War in 1960, rising to associate director for intelligence in 1982 and then deputy director for intelligence in 1986. Mr. Kerr served as president of the Security Affairs Support Association (SASA), from which INSA was founded, from 1996 to 2001.

Recent Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Agency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Don Parlett</td>
<td>Defense Intelligence Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Travis Thompson</td>
<td>Defense Intelligence Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Anita Brown</td>
<td>U.S. Department of State</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Jessica Van Cleaf</td>
<td>U.S. Coast Guard, CG-257</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Mary Ann Kissinger</td>
<td>National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>Elizabeth Teoman</td>
<td>Office of Naval Intelligence</td>
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Nathaniel Bundy’s exceptional leadership and intelligence acumen have significantly strengthened U.S. national security. His keen ability to discern threat activity has shaped Blue Team TTP strategies, which safeguard assets valued over $150 billion. Mr. Bundy’s pivotal role in identifying gaps within USSPACECOM’s OPLAN led to the initiation of the Joint Space Operations Plan, harmonizing efforts among commands and the IC for optimized space support of joint operations.

Moreover, his leadership on the team that fused orbital data with key intelligence analysis led to groundbreaking operational intelligence visualizations, providing a never-before-seen perspective within the DoD and IC. Mr. Bundy’s contributions, including 3D reconstructions of adversary TTPs, reached high-level decision-makers, informing them on developing threat situations. His efforts were instrumental in NSDC J22 winning the prestigious USSPACECOM 2022 Team of the Year award.

Mr. Bundy was handpicked to stand up a Mission Partner Integration Cell, serving as the lone all-source intelligence analyst supporting the tactical unit. His tailored products and identification of collection gaps resulted in essential pattern-of-life requirements to the IC. Indeed, his senior-level briefings catalyzed changes to NGA support of the mission partner.

Recognizing a critical gap in post-mission debriefing for space missions, crucial for comparative analysis, Mr. Bundy displayed personal courage by advocating for its importance. Despite initial resistance, he collaborated with developers to adapt an operational reporting tool and crafted a mission report template for a tactical unit. This initiative’s success was acknowledged by USSF S2, prompting its immediate adoption across the entire service.

Mr. Bundy embodies Army Values, showing remarkable selflessness in mentoring joint enlisted personnel, enabling their rapid mastery of the intricate domain of space. His guidance facilitated the transformation of two soldiers into subject matter experts who delivered regular threat updates to a One-Star Commander and briefed over 500 IC and DoD personnel at an annual threat conference.

Nathaniel Bundy’s extraordinary leadership, commitment to excellence, and deep technical expertise bring credit upon himself and ensure a lasting and influential impact on our nation’s security.
ABOUT SIDNEY D. DRELL

DR. SIDNEY D. DRELL (1926 - 2016) was a groundbreaking theoretical physicist, passionate arms control champion, and trusted government advisor who helped shape U.S. policies on nuclear deterrence and nonproliferation at the start of the Cold War. He is also recognized as one of the founders of satellite reconnaissance as a space discipline. Dr. Drell’s wide-ranging technical expertise informed the national security policies of U.S. presidents for more than 50 years. He served on the President’s Science Advisory Committee under Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon during the Vietnam War and on the Intelligence Advisory Board for President Bill Clinton. He also served on or chaired numerous panels advising Congress, the military, and the Intelligence Community.

RECENT RECIPIENTS

- **2018**
  - Alison Lawlor Russell
  - Merrimack College

- **2019**
  - Dakota S. Rudesill
  - The Ohio State University

- **2020**
  - LTC David P. Oakley, PhD, USA
  - National Defense University

- **2021**
  - Meg K. Guliford
  - Perry World House,
  - University of Pennsylvania

- **2022**
  - Marylesa Howard, PhD
  - U.S. Department of Energy

- **2023**
  - Cameo Lance
  - Rhea Space Activity, Inc.

JASON A. PAYNE

Research Lead, Directed Energy Bioeffects
Air Force Research Laboratory

A nationally sought-after expert in the field of electromagnetic dosimetry, Jason Payne has routinely been called on to advise the intelligence community and defense department. He was handpicked to advise a Congressionally mandated cross functional team on whole-of-government research aimed at addressing emerging national security concerns. In this role, Mr. Payne developed a comprehensive evaluation of 50 years of research informing decision makers of critical historical conclusions and the scientific community’s consensus, as well as the current state of the science.

Mr. Payne pioneered multi-physics simulations assessing bioeffects of novel directed energy sources, estimating effect thresholds, and addressing safety uncertainties for crucial defense assets. His strategic direction in a $3M cross-organizational effort reduced modeling costs by $1M, while bringing together Air Force and Navy digital body models. Furthermore, Mr. Payne has authored eight scientific manuscripts addressing radio frequency impacts to human health and performance.

His quiet leadership and selfless service has inspired his 20-member team to reach new heights. Furthermore, his ingenuity and drive are so highly valued that in 2023 he was selected as the deputy for the Office of the Secretary of Defense’s Directed Energy/Non-lethal Weapons Community of Interest, championing this game-changing technology throughout the DoD.

Through his technical expertise, impactful research, and unfailing service to the nation, Jason Payne has greatly enhanced our understanding of directed energy and significantly improved our national security.
The Hon. Joan Dempsey is a trailblazer for women entering the senior executive ranks of the defense and intelligence communities. She spent 17 years as a senior civilian in the Department of Defense, serving as Deputy Director of Intelligence at the Defense Intelligence Agency, amongst other leadership roles. Ms. Dempsey also was a political appointee of both major political parties, serving as the first Deputy Director of Central Intelligence for Community Management under President Bill Clinton and later as Executive Director of the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board under President George W. Bush.

**RECENT RECIPIENTS**

- **2018**
  - SMSgt Timothy Favreau, USAF
  - National Reconnaissance Office

- **2019**
  - Lori Anne Parker
  - U.S. Department of Homeland Security

- **2020**
  - Megan Jaffer
  - Amazing Women of the IC

- **2021**
  - Meghan Flannery Hayes
  - Applied Research Laboratory, Penn State University

- **2022**
  - Cadienne Naquin Hopkins
  - The Command Purpose Foundation

- **2023**
  - MSgt Amanda D. Scurry, USAF
  - National Security Agency – Hawaii

**FAYE CUEVAS**

Deputy Chief of Staff
U.S. Special Operations Command—Africa

Faye Cuevas has played a pivotal role building the Special Operations Command Africa (SOFACRICA) first-ever Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Program, which serves as a model of Special Operations Forces approach to operationalizing WPS objectives. As Deputy Chief of Staff, she spearheaded the incorporation of WPS operations, activities, and investments into Special Operations Forces campaign plans across Africa and mentored tactical teams and African partners on the value of integrating women into special operation forces.

Her impact has been profound. Ms. Cuevas’ mentorship led to the launch of WPS programs in four Coastal West African countries and facilitated the historic integration of women into a North African special operations unit, a landmark transformation after nearly half a century. In Kenya, her initiatives fostered trust-building between women in violent extremist affected communities and security sector personnel. These extraordinary accomplishments demonstrate to African partners the value of a partnership with the U.S. rooted in human rights principles.

Prior to SOFACRICA, Ms. Cuevas led the stand-up of Kenya’s first all-female community wildlife ranger team. She mentored all eight women of Team Lioness through ranger training and integration into the ranger ranks alongside their male counterparts. This groundbreaking program not only empowered the team but laid the groundwork for WPS approaches in conflict-affected settings, shaping SOFACRICA’s strategies.

Her visionary leadership, resourcefulness, and mentorship has helped SOFACRICA maneuver in complex operating environments and strengthened nascent partner efforts to recruit and train women in special operations forces. Ms. Cuevas’s impact extends beyond the immediate, touching the lives of numerous mentees, colleagues, and interagency partners. A beacon of excellence, Faye Cuevas embodies the values of mentorship and servant leadership, making her a worthy recipient of the Joan A. Dempsey Mentorship Award.
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

INSA would like to thank the following organizations for their support of the 2024 INSA Achievement Awards.

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Registration

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Video Recording

DATA MACHINES
Coat Check – Small Business

UPCOMING INSA PROGRAMS

Register online at INSAonline.org.

THURSDAY
2/29
Leadership Breakfast with The Hon. Christopher Wray

THURSDAY
3/28
Leadership Dinner with VADM Frank Whitworth, USN

THURSDAY
4/4
Spring Symposium: How AI is Transforming the IC

WED – SAT
4/17–18
Common Threads Huntsville

WED – THURS
5/15–16
Common Threads Fort Meade

SATURDAY
6/1
William Oliver Baker Award Dinner recognizing GEN Paul M. Nakasone, USA (Ret.)

TUES – WED
8/27–28
AFECA/INSA Intelligence & National Security Summit
A special thank you to our President’s Circle members for their ongoing support of INSA events, policy discussions, and award programs!

INSA’s Intelligence Career Conversations Podcast
Your Insider Guide to National Security Careers!

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Get straightforward advice on the skills needed for success.

Insider Advice:
Learn strategies for climbing the career ladder.

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2024 INSA

CHARLIE ALLEN

ACHIEVEMENT

AWARDS

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