

Building a Stronger Intelligence Community



2024 INSA CHARLIE ALLEN ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Recognizing New Leaders in Intelligence & National Security



02

WHERE DO THE BATTLEFIELD, NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, AND DEEP SPACE INTERSECT? WITH US.

From health and homeland security to space superiority and military readiness, Peraton takes on missions of consequence in every corner of Earth and into the farthest reaches of the galaxy.



03

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**



ABOUT INSA AND THE CHARLIE ALLEN ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



INTELLIGENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY ALLIANCE

Building a Stronger Intelligence Community

The Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA) is a nonpartisan, not-forprofit association that fosters collaboration among the public, private, and academic sectors to collectively address critical national security priorities. Our diverse membership base includes current and former high-ranking intelligence, military and government agency leaders, analysts, and experts from industry and academia. INSA programs and policy councils offer invaluable opportunities to showcase your expertise and expand your professional network. Learn more about the work we do at INSAonline.org.

THE CHARLIE ALLEN ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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. 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

ABOUT THE KEYNOTE

TONYA WILKERSON

Deputy Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency



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

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 Sabra 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.



INTELLIGENCE CHAMPIONS COUNCIL

ABOUT EDWIN H. LAND

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 nightvision 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.

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

JULIA BUFFINTON

LMI

JENNIFER FINLEY



ECIPIENT

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2024

Program Manager

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 guick 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.



Communication & Networking Systems Assistant Group Supervisor Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory

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. 7

JOHN W. WARNER HOMELAND SECURITY AWARD

AMANDA NASHED

ABOUT JOHN W. WARNER

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.

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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



Homeland Security Analyst, Office of Intelligence Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia

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.

LCDR IRIS KAKU, USN

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 Elizebeth L. Harris, USAF National Reconnaissance Office

2023

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



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.

NATHANIEL BUNDY

ABOUT RICHARD J. KERR

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

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RECENT RECIPIENTS

2018

Don Parlett Defense Intelligence Agency

2019

Travis Thompson Defense Intelligence Agency

2020

Anita Brown U.S. Department of State

2021

Jessica Van Cleaf U.S. Coast Guard, CG-257

2022

Mary Ann Kissinger National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

2023

Elizabeth Teoman Office of Naval Intelligence



Lead Threat Analyst National Space Defense Center

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.

SIDNEY D. DRELL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AWARD

JASON A. PAYNE

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.



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.

JOAN A. DEMPSEY MENTORSHIP AWARD

FAYE CUEVAS

ABOUT JOAN A. DEMPSEY

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



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

Faye Cuevas has played a pivotal role building the Special

Operations Command Africa (SOCAFRICA) 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 SOCAFRICA, 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 SOCAFRICA's strategies.

Her visionary leadership, resourcefulness, and mentorship has helped SOCAFRICA 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.

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