

THE 39TH
WILLIAM OLIVER BAKER
Award Dinner

HONORING

GEN Paul M. Nakasone, USA (Ret.)





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WILLIAM OLIVER BAKER

Dr. William Oliver Baker embodied the INSA spirit throughout his life and career. He effected profound change in national security and intelligence by bridging the best of private sector practice with distinguished public service.

In 1984 the Board of Directors of the Security Affairs Support Association (SASA), predecessor of INSA, renamed the SASA Medal of Achievement in honor of Dr. Baker. The four words etched on the medal are the defining aspects of Dr. Baker's life: Scientist, Inventor, Scholar, and Statesman.



William Oliver Baker was born and raised on Maryland's Eastern Shore. He received his bachelor's degree at nearby Washington College and graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University with a doctorate in Chemistry.

In 1939, at age 24, Dr. Baker joined Bell Labs, where his research during World War II played an essential role in the development of synthetic rubber. He would go on to hold 11 patents for his research on crystalline molecular structures like plastics and natural rubber.

Serving as Bell Labs Vice President of Research from 1955-1973, Dr. Baker pioneered advancements that underpin modern-day digital communications, including laser technology, satellite communications, and the Unix operating system.

For decades, he advised the U.S. Government on science, technology, and national security matters. At President Eisenhower's request, he developed the plan to establish the U.S. Defense Communications Agency, now DISA. Dr. Baker served on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board for an unprecedented five administrations – Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and Reagan.

He mentored a generation of renowned scientists and supported many philanthropic foundations and education commissions. INSA is proud to continue honoring Dr. Baker's extraordinary life and legacy.



*To William Baker
With appreciation and best wishes,*

Ronald Reagan

THE BAKER AWARD

The William Oliver Baker Award honors excellence in the intelligence and national security communities.

Members of government, industry, and academia are eligible to be nominated, provided that a substantial portion of their professional activity is devoted to intelligence and national security affairs.

The Baker Award Selection Committee, comprised of INSA's Board of Directors, selects the recipient on the basis of:

Sustained excellence in their contribution to intelligence and national security affairs over a considerable period of time, or a single achievement of extraordinary merit;

Contributions in the scientific and technical disciplines or in the other fields essential to the enhancement of intelligence and national security interests;

Technical enhancement of unusual significance, management proficiency of high order, or development or application of techniques that permit cost savings of substantial magnitude.



RECENT
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RECIPIENTS



GEN Keith B. Alexander, USA (Ret.), 2019



The Hon. Sue Gordon, 2021



Gov. Tom Ridge, 2022



LtGen Dimitri Henry, USMC, accepts the award
on behalf of Vince Stewart's family, 2023

GENERAL PAUL M. NAKASONE, USA (RET.)



A retired four-star general, Paul M. Nakasone's distinguished 38-year career in the U.S. Army culminated in 2024 with his service as the first commander of U.S. Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM) as a unified combatant command and Director, National Security Agency (NSA)/Chief, Central Security Service (CSS).

Some

GEN Nakasone assumed command of USCYBERCOM in 2018 when the organization was elevated to a unified combatant command, steering it into a new era for military cyber operations. Under his leadership, the Command implemented 'persistent engagement,' and 'hunt forward operations', paradigm shifts that reshaped the military's doctrine for joint cyberspace operations.

At NSA his accomplishments included a robust commitment to partnership and information sharing. In 2019, he established NSA's Cybersecurity Directorate to unify the agency's foreign intelligence and cyber defense missions, with the goal to quickly declassify threat intelligence to share with partners and the Defense Industrial Base.



GENERAL PAUL M. NAKASONE, USA (RET.)

In a first for the agency, GEN Nakasone launched the public-facing Cybersecurity Collaboration Center in 2022, which allowed cybersecurity experts from a range of industries to sit side-by-side with NSA analysts, sharing insights, tradecraft, and threat information.

Other key leadership assignments included serving as Commander, U.S. Army Cyber Command and Commander, Cyber National Mission Force at U.S. Cyber Command. Over his career, GEN Nakasone held leadership roles at the company, battalion, and brigade levels and served as the senior intelligence officer in numerous assignments. Overseas, he served in Joint and Army assignments in the Republic of Korea, Iraq, and Afghanistan. His most recent overseas posting was as Director of Intelligence, J2, International Security Assistance Force Joint Command in Kabul, Afghanistan.





Throughout his career, GEN Nakasone earned numerous awards, including the Distinguished Service Medal (with oak leaf cluster), the Defense Superior Service Medal (with three oak leaf clusters), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (with oak leaf cluster), Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal (with oak leaf cluster), Army Achievement Medal (with four oak leaf clusters), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Combat Action Badge, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge.



GENERAL PAUL M. NAKASONE, USA (RET.)





GEN Nakasone holds graduate degrees from the U.S. Army War College, the National Defense Intelligence College, and the University of Southern California. A native of White Bear Lake, Minnesota, he earned his undergraduate degree from Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, where he received his commission through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.



He retired from service in 2024. He and his wife Susan are the proud parents of four children, who form the nucleus of "Team Nakasone."

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PRESIDENTIAL TABLE

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The Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA) is a 501(c)(6) non-profit, nonpartisan membership organization dedicated to enhancing collaboration among the public, private, and academic sectors to address pressing national security issues. With more than 160 corporate members, INSA benefits from broad engagement from senior leaders including current and former intelligence, military, and government officials, as well as analysts and experts from industry and academia.

Learn more about the work we do at INSAonline.org.

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To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greeting:

*With utmost esteem and profound admiration, the Intelligence and National Security Alliance
proudly honors*

GENERAL PAUL M. NAKASONE, USA, (RET.)

as the 39th recipient of the William Oliver Baker Medal of Achievement.

General Nakasone's exceptional leadership as Director of the National Security Agency and Chief of the Central Security Service, and as the first Commander of United States Cyber Command as a unified Combatant Command, significantly enhanced the nation's cybersecurity capabilities and strategic posture.

During his tenure, General Nakasone spearheaded transformative initiatives that fortified our nation's cyber defenses. Notably, he established the public-facing NSA Cybersecurity Collaboration Center to foster critical partnerships between government, industry, and academia, strengthening our nation's response to cyber threats, and bolstering national cyber resilience. Additionally, his forward-leaning leadership led to the creation of the AI Security Center, which oversees the integration of artificial intelligence within U.S. national security systems.

General Nakasone expanded the impact of NSA and U.S. Cyber Command in election security, leading collaborative efforts with intelligence agencies, law enforcement, and election officials. Under his command, hunt forward operations were instrumental in detecting and countering foreign cyber threats during the 2018, 2020, and 2022 elections, ensuring the integrity of our democratic processes.

His strategic vision, commitment to excellence, and belief in the power of collaboration have elevated the capabilities of the NSA/CSS and U.S. Cyber Command, ensuring America's technological edge and national security. General Nakasone's exceptional achievements reflect great credit upon himself, his dedicated teams, and the highest ideals of military and public service.

He is richly deserving of this highest tribute in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the defense and national security of the United States of America.

Given by my hand this 1st day of June, 2024, in Washington, D.C.



Letitia A. Long, Chairwoman

The Intelligence and National Security Alliance proudly adds

GENERAL PAUL M. NAKASONE, USA (RET.)

to the distinguished list of William Oliver Baker Award Recipients.

1985 – Barry Goldwater

1986 – Vernon A. Walters

1987 – Richard Helms

1988 – Dr. Edwin H. Land

1989 – Admiral Bobby R.
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1990 – Dr. Lew Allen

1991 – James R. Schlesinger

1992 – Dr. Louis W. Tordella

1993 – Dr. Albert D. Wheelon

1994 – Dr. Robert J. Hermann

1995 – John N. McMahon

1996 – Sam V. Wilson

1997 – Judge William H. Webster

1998 – Dr. Jack E. Thomas

1999 – Ann Caracristi

2000 – William J. Perry

2001 – Dr. Sidney D. Drell

2002 – Charles E. Allen

2003 – George J. Tenet

2004 – Joan A. Dempsey

2005 – Brent Scowcroft

2006 – Lt Gen James R.
Clapper, Jr.
(USAF, Retired)

2007 – ADM William Studeman
(USN, Retired)

2008 – Richard J. Kerr

2009 – John Warner

2010 – Dr. Robert M. Gates

2011 – VADM Mike McConnell
(USN, Retired)

2012 – Arthur L. Money

2013 – General Michael V.
Hayden (USAF, Retired)

2014 – Leon E. Panetta

2015 – Congressmen
Michael J. Rogers and
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

2016 – John E. McLaughlin

2017 – Robert S. Mueller III

2018 – Stephanie O'Sullivan

2019 – General Keith B.
Alexander (USA, Retired)

2021 – Susan M. Gordon

2022 – Governor Tom Ridge

2023 – Vincent R. Stewart

**2024 – General Paul M. Nakasone
(USA, Retired)**



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