

1985 - 2025
40
YEARS
OF DISTINCTION

WILLIAM
OLIVER BAKER
Award Dinner

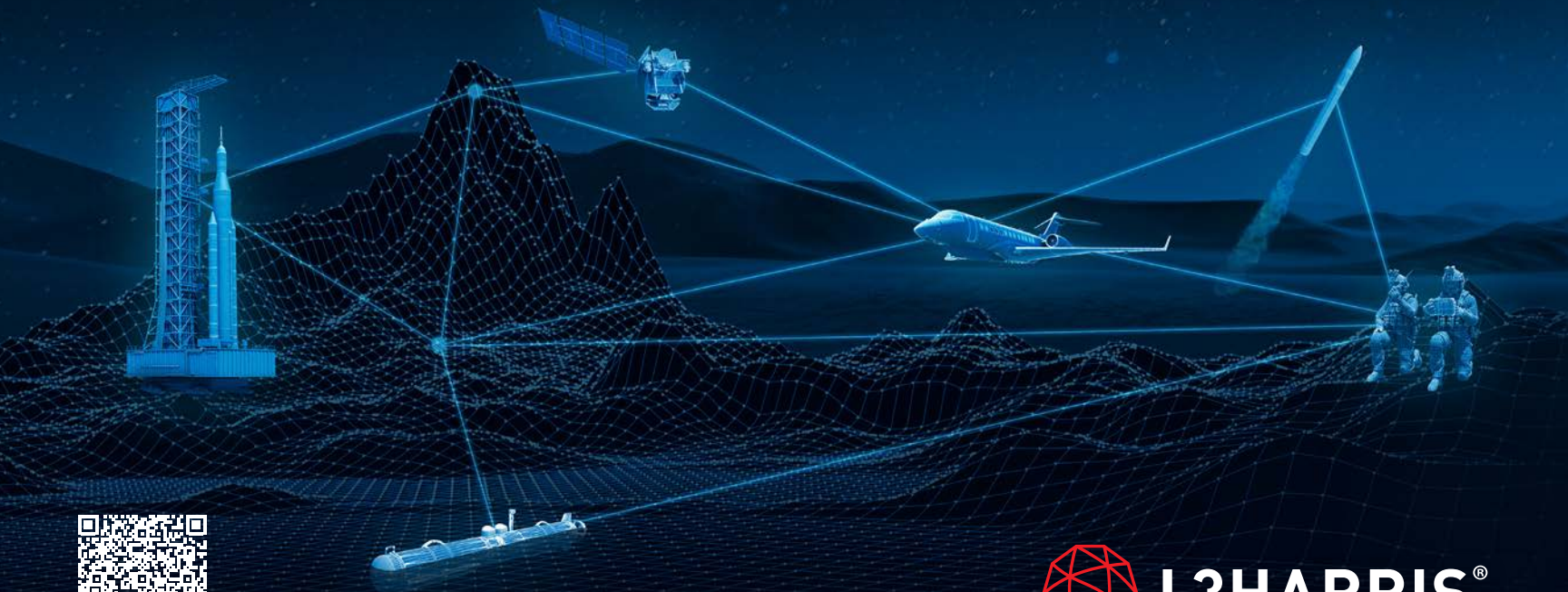
RECOGNIZING

The Honorable William J. Burns



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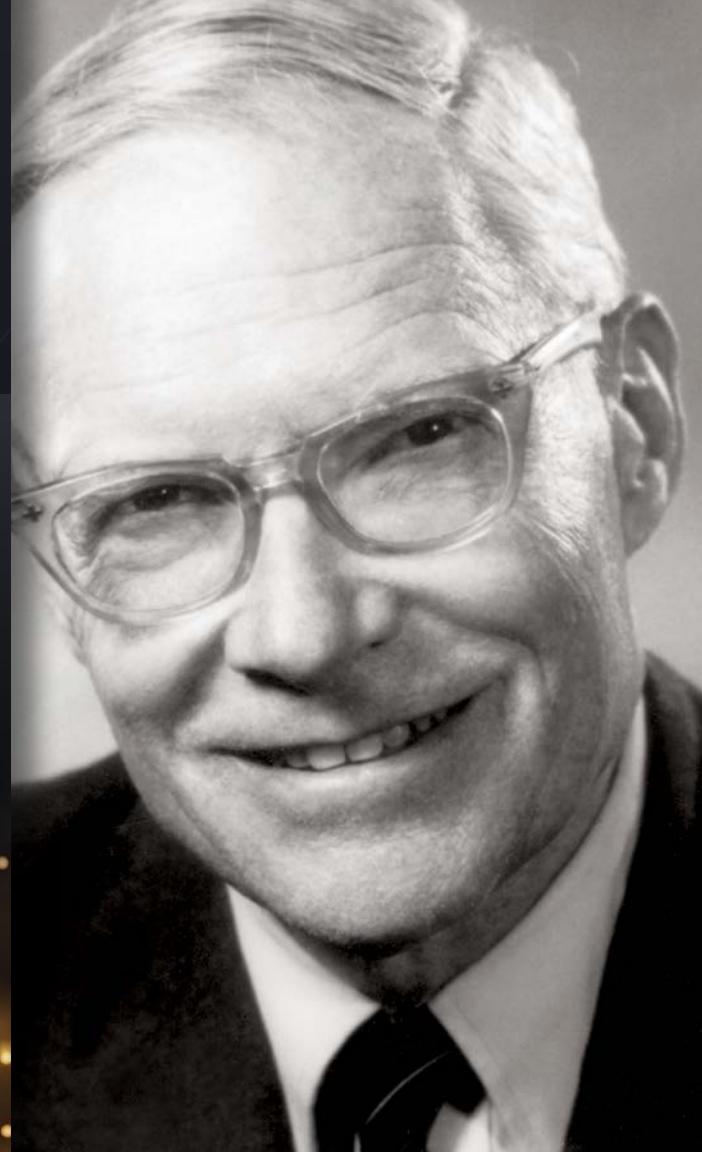
REMARKS

Share your photos from tonight with [#INSABaker](#).

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.



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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.

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
BAKER
AWARD
RECIPIENTS



The Hon. Sue Gordon, 2021



Gov. Tom Ridge, 2022

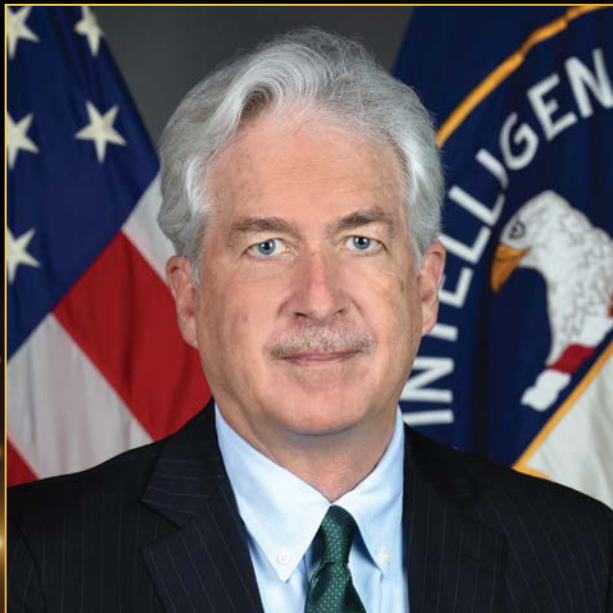


LtGen Dimitri Henry, USMC, accepts the award
on behalf of Vince Stewart's family, 2023



General Paul M. Nakasone, USA (Ret.), 2024

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. BURNS



The Honorable William J. Burns served as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) from 2021 to 2025. As the first career diplomat to lead the Agency, he drew on more than three decades in the U.S. Foreign Service to guide the CIA through an era of rising geopolitical tensions, strategic competition, and technological disruption.



As Director, he led the Agency's response to a shifting global threat landscape, supporting Ukraine up to and after Russia's 2022 invasion, establishing the CIA's China Mission Center and Transnational and Technology Mission Center, and playing a key role in ceasefire and hostage negotiations during the Israel-Hamas conflict. His tenure also saw the successful operation that eliminated al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri.

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. BURNS

He championed transformative efforts to recruit and retain exceptional talent equipped to navigate the evolving mission realities facing the Agency.

Over a 33-year diplomatic career, Ambassador Burns became known as a crisis-tested leader and one of the most respected voices in American foreign policy. He was only the second serving career diplomat in history to be appointed Deputy Secretary of State. His senior roles also included serving as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs (2008-2011); U.S. Ambassador to Russia (2005-2008); Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs (2001-2005); and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan (1998-2001).



MS



Ambassador Burns has received three Presidential Distinguished Service Awards and the highest honors from the Department of Defense and U.S. Intelligence Community. He was named one of TIME magazine's *100 Most Influential People in 2024* and was previously recognized on TIME's list of *Forty Most Promising Global Leaders Under Forty*.

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. BURNS





He holds a bachelor's degree from LaSalle University and master's and doctoral degrees from Oxford University, where he studied as a Marshall Scholar.

He and his wife, Lisa Carty, have two daughters.

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Freedom Technology Solutions Group

GDIT

Google for Government

GRVTY

House Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence

L3Harris

Infoblox

Leidos

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NASA

National Counterintelligence and
Security Center

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

National Institutes of Health

National Reconnaissance Office

National Security Agency

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PRESIDENTIAL TABLE



PRESIDENTIAL TABLE



PRESIDENTIAL TABLE

THE FUTURE IC WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Each year, the INSA Foundation awards EIGHT scholarships valued at \$60,000 to undergraduate and master's students seeking careers in the intelligence and national security community.

100% of every donation goes directly to the scholarship fund.

Learn how to support these awards by visiting INSAonline.org/Foundation.



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The Honorable Susan M. Gordon, *Senior Intelligence Advisor*

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ABOUT INSA



INTELLIGENCE AND
NATIONAL SECURITY
ALLIANCE

The Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA) is a 501(c)(6) nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to advancing collaborative, public-private approaches to intelligence and national security priorities. Through the application of industry expertise, leading-edge research and commercial best practice, INSA seeks to make the Intelligence Community more effective and efficient. Our 175+ member organizations and 4,000 individual and associate members include professionals from across the public, private, and academic sectors.

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

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE *MEMBERS*

A special thank you to all of our **President's Circle members** for their ongoing support of INSA events, policy discussions, and award programs!



To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greeting:

*With the deepest respect and heartfelt gratitude, the Intelligence and National Security Alliance
proudly honors*

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. BURNS

as the 40th recipient of the William Oliver Baker Medal of Achievement.

As Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr. Burns guided the Agency through a period of profound global disruption and strategic competition. A seasoned diplomat and trusted statesman, he led the CIA with clarity, integrity, and resolve, ensuring its continued excellence in intelligence collection, analysis, and global operations.

Among his most consequential decisions was the unprecedented declassification and release of intelligence exposing Russia's intent to invade Ukraine. This bold and historic move disrupted Moscow's disinformation campaign, galvanized international unity, and empowered allies to take swift and coordinated action, underscoring the power of intelligence in shaping strategic outcomes.

Mr. Burns also sharpened the Agency's focus on the evolving challenges posed by the Chinese Communist Party. He established the CIA's China Mission Center and expanded investment in Mandarin language training, workforce development, and emerging technologies, ensuring the CIA remains agile and mission-ready in a rapidly changing world.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Burns fostered a culture of trust and professionalism, strengthening relationships with partners, enhancing operational effectiveness, and championing the dedicated women and men of the CIA. His leadership reflects the finest traditions of public service.

Prior to leading the CIA, Mr. Burns served with distinction for over three decades in the U.S. Foreign Service, including as Deputy Secretary of State and Ambassador to both Russia and Jordan. A Career Ambassador, he is one of the most respected and accomplished diplomats of his generation.

Mr. Burns is richly deserving of this highest tribute in recognition of his enduring contributions to the intelligence and national security of the United States of America.

Given by my hand this 26th day of July, 2025, in Washington, D.C.



Letitia A. Long, Chairwoman

The Intelligence and National Security Alliance proudly adds

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. BURNS

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.
Inman (USN, Retired)

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)

2025 – William J. Burns



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