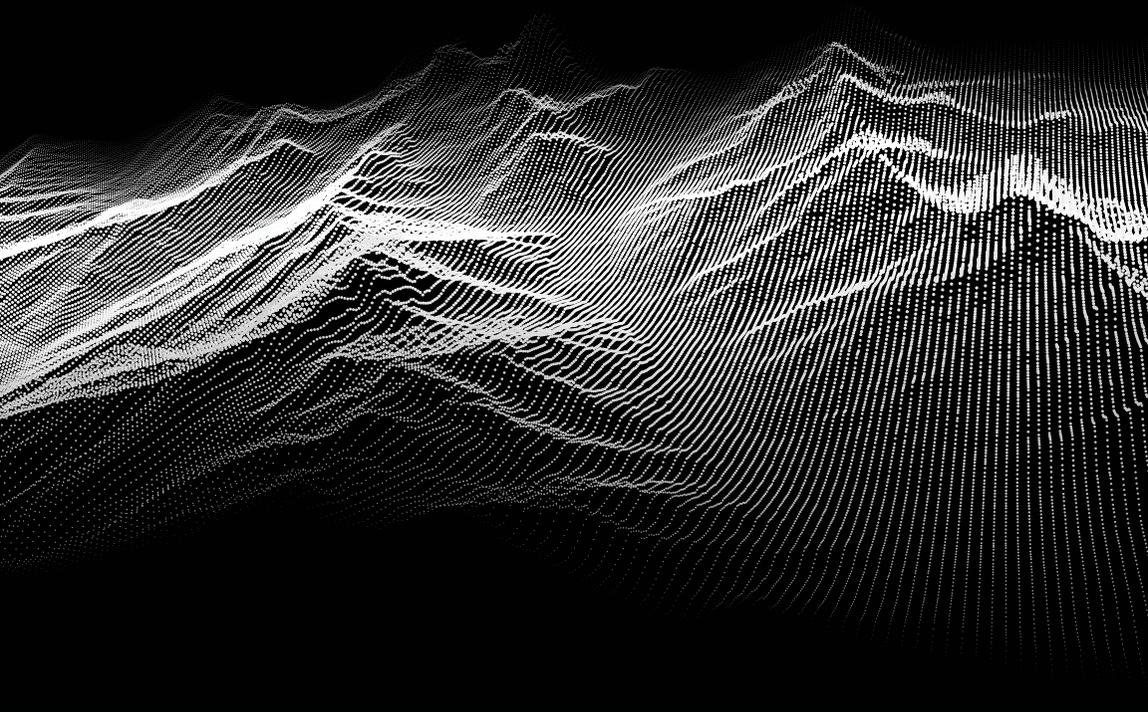# 2026
CHARLIE ALLEN
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS

Recognizing New Leaders
in Intelligence &
National Security

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Agenda

Welcome Reception

Opening Remarks

Suzanne Wilson Heckenberg
President, INSA/INSF

Keynote Address

Christine L. Bordine
Deputy Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

Awards Presentation

Dessert Reception

About INSA, INSF, and
the Charlie Allen Achievement Awards

INTELLIGENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY ALLIANCE

Building a Stronger Intelligence Community

The Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA) is the leading nonpartisan, nonprofit association dedicated to strengthening collaboration across the public, private, and academic sectors to address the nation's most pressing intelligence and national security challenges.

With more than 180 corporate members, INSA brings together current and former senior intelligence, defense, and national security leaders, along with experts from industry and academia, to advance practical solutions that drive mission success.

Through its policy programs, leadership initiatives, and powerful events, INSA provides trusted forums for dialogue, partnership, and professional growth.

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

The Intelligence and National Security Foundation (INSF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing contemporary intelligence and national security challenges, facilitating public discourse on the role and value of intelligence for our nation's security, and advancing the intelligence field as a career choice.

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.

About the Keynote

CHRISTINE L. BORDINE
Deputy Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

Ms. Christine L. Bordine assists the DIA Director to execute DIA's mission and manage a global multi-sector workforce of more than 16,500 dedicated to providing unparalleled all-source intelligence, collection and technical insight to warfighters, commands and defense policy makers.

Ms. Bordine's career in the Intelligence Community includes assignments at the CIA, ODNI, DIA, and NSA. Her experience includes tours supporting J2 elements at European Command, US Cyber Command, and United States Forces, Japan, as well as the International Military Staff at NATO, HQ in Brussels, Belgium. She began her career at NSA as a voice language analyst in 1988, later working in the private sector for Northrop Grumman supporting the CIA and the standup of the ODNI for Collection.

Returning to government service in 2006, she held senior leadership roles at ODNI and DIA. Notably, she led the DIA Collection Management Enterprise Office, where she was responsible for establishing the collection management career field and Department of Defense collection management policy. Additionally, as DIA's Vice Principal Deputy Director for Intelligence Integration, she was instrumental in the establishment of the agency's integrated intelligence centers. From 2015 to 2018, she served as the Deputy Director for Intelligence at US Cyber Command.

She rejoined NSA in 2018, serving as the Directorate of Operations Chief of Staff and, most recently, the Deputy Director for the Directorate of Capabilities. In this role, she led the global workforce responsible for building and securing the IT infrastructure that underpins the NSA mission.

Ms. Bordine was selected for the Senior National Intelligence Service in 2008 and the Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service in 2012. She is a 2017 Presidential Rank Award recipient. She holds a BA in Russian, an MA in National Security Studies, and is a Certified Executive Coach. Ms. Bordine and her husband have four adult children and a cantankerous basset named Rosie.

Special Thanks

Thank you 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

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Kellene Bruce Ecker

Megan Jaffer, *Iron Butterfly Media*

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Wyetta Morrow, *Collins Aerospace*

Mary Quinn, *TSA*

Amy Campbell, *INSA*

John Doyon, *INSA*

Suzanne Wilson Heckenberg, *INSA*

About the INSA Intelligence Champions Council *(ICC)*

INSA INTELLIGENCE CHAMPIONS COUNCIL

The ICC strives to strengthen and grow the IC workforce by advising, mentoring, advocating, and fostering dialogue among professionals across organizations and experience levels who are interested or engaged in intelligence related careers.

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Joan A. Dempsey
Mentorship Award

The Honorable 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. Ms. Dempsey is currently a senior executive advisor at Booz Allen Hamilton.

RECENT RECIPIENTS

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

2024
Faye Cuevas
U.S. Special Operations Command – Africa

2025
Khalilah Montgomery-Sobrowski
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Nicole Ellen Griffin

Threat Analysis Division Director *(Acting)*
Transportation Security Administration,
Intelligence & Analysis Office

Nicole Griffin exemplifies the leadership, mentorship, and dedication that define the Joan Dempsey Mentorship Award.

As Acting Director of the Threat Analysis Division within the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Intelligence and Analysis Office, Ms. Griffin leads a geographically dispersed workforce responsible for real-time threat identification, incident management, and intelligence-driven analysis supporting the security and resilience of transportation systems worldwide. Stepping into the division chief role unexpectedly in June 2025, she provided immediate stability, strengthened mission focus, and elevated both analytic quality and workforce morale.

Ms. Griffin has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to mentorship through sustained, hands-on engagement. She has shown remarkable dedication to onboarding employees from diverse professional backgrounds—including Transportation Security Officers who possess valuable operational expertise but lack intelligence training— creating training and mentorship programs that develop operational experts into intelligence analysts with distinctive operational perspectives. Through these efforts, she has strengthened the analytic tradecraft, operational insight, and cross-organizational collaboration of her workforce. Beyond formal programs, she is a trusted mentor and advocate, providing candid coaching, career guidance, and sponsorship that has helped mentees advance into leadership roles across the Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies.

Under her leadership, TSA's indications and warning watch and analytic teams improved procedures, created tailored daily intelligence products, and implemented analytic methodologies that allow her team to analyze complex problems and support TSA operational decision-making. Through her commitment to excellence, advocacy for employee well-being, and ability to inspire others, Ms. Griffin has made a lasting impact across TSA, the Department of Homeland Security, and the national security mission.

John W. Warner
Homeland Security Award

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.

RECENT RECIPIENTS

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

2024
Amanda Nashed
Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia

2025
Maj Javier Alejandro Noboa, USSF
National Reconnaissance Office

Brent Howlett

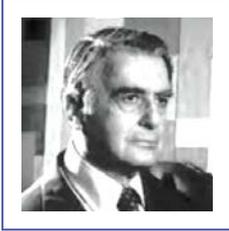**Special Agent**
Naval Criminal Investigative Service

Special Agent Brent Howlett has earned a reputation as a trusted operator whose judgment, professionalism, and dedication directly strengthen homeland security.

As a Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Task Force Officer assigned to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, SA Howlett serves as a critical link between the Department of the Navy and the FBI, enabling intelligence sharing to protect some of the nation's most sensitive personnel, facilities, and infrastructure. His instrumental role in a joint NCIS–FBI investigation led to the successful prosecution of an individual producing ricin, a deadly biological agent. This decisive action mitigated a serious threat to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and broader national security community.

SA Howlett's leadership and investigative skill are further demonstrated through his work on complex domestic terrorism investigations, including a case involving nihilistic violent extremism at the Washington Navy Yard that resulted in successful search and arrest warrants. Trusted by senior FBI leadership, he supported the response to the Capital Jewish Museum shooting and provided force protection for high-profile events such as the NATO Summit and the 2025 Presidential Inauguration.

Beyond his operational contributions, SA Howlett is widely regarded as a mentor and standard-setter among his peers, known for his composure under pressure and willingness to support colleagues at all hours. Through selfless service, strong interagency collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to mission and people alike, SA Howlett embodies the values of John W. Warner and has measurably strengthened the safety and resilience of the U.S. homeland.

Edwin H. Land
Industry Award

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 the 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 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

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

2024
Julia Buffinton
LMI

Jennifer Finley
*Johns Hopkins Applied
Physics Lab*

2025
Sarah Daly
*Institute for Defense
Analyses*

Robert James Robancho, Jr.

Lead Cyber Intelligence Analyst
Mission Delta 6/S2, Deloitte

Robert Robancho's work has fundamentally strengthened how the U.S. Space Force detects, understands, and responds to cyber threats.
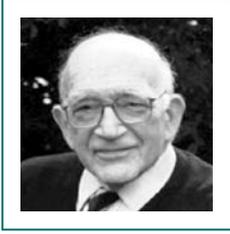
As a Deloitte contractor serving as Lead Cyber Intelligence Analyst supporting Mission Delta 6, Mr. Robancho drove a transformation in cyber intelligence operations, spearheading initiatives that resulted in a 400 percent increase in actionable cyber threat analysis reporting. He designed and implemented a "hub and spoke" intelligence model that centralized expertise while distributing timely, mission-relevant cyber intelligence across the force. This framework now underpins the Space Force's 24/7/365 persistent defense posture, delivering Attack Sensing and Warning capabilities to mission-critical systems.

Equally important, Mr. Robancho invested directly in the success and readiness of his team. By driving the adoption of standardized analytic practices, he reduced response timelines while providing analysts with clearer workflows and expectations, enabling faster and more confident decision-making. He led his contract team to consistently exceed performance expectations, securing five highly competitive cyber training opportunities that expanded advanced analyst qualifications and strengthened workforce capability. Through tailored briefings and hands-on engagement with the Satellite Control Network, he ensured operators and analysts alike understood cyber risk, response priorities, and their role in mission defense.

By combining technical ingenuity, operational leadership, and a commitment to advancing others, Mr. Robancho embodies the spirit of Edwin H. Land, turning innovation into practical capability that delivers enduring national security impact.

2026 RECIPIENT

Sidney D. Drell
Science & Technology Award

Dr. Sidney D. Drell (1926-2016) was a groundbreaking theoretical physicist, passionate arms control champion, and trust 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 on 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

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.

2024
Jason A. Payne
Air Force Research Laboratory

2025
Kelsey Carilli
Sandia National Laboratories

Sarah K. Adams

Manager, Alternative Computing Paradigms
Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory

Through sustained innovation and technical rigor, Sarah Adams has delivered research and development breakthroughs with lasting impact on national security missions.

As Program Manager for Alternative Computing Paradigms at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, her work reflects scientific excellence and a consistent focus on translating advanced research into operationally relevant capabilities.

Ms. Adams leads a forward-looking portfolio advancing quantum information science, trustworthy computing, and neuromimetic architectures, pushing the boundaries of how the nation computes securely, efficiently, and at scale in support of critical intelligence and defense missions.

Ms. Adams has distinguished herself by connecting fundamental science to mission-driven outcomes. Since joining APL in 2020, she has translated early-stage discoveries into capabilities relevant to defense, intelligence, and homeland security stakeholders. Her leadership of the DARPA-supported POSTURES project achieved the first fully aerosol-jet-printed optical waveguides, redefining how photonic systems can be rapidly prototyped, customized, and deployed. By extending additive manufacturing into photonics, Ms. Adams enabled resilient, mission-tailored microsystems capable of operating in demanding environments.

Beyond her technical achievements, Ms. Adams is a respected mentor and collaborative leader who fosters interdisciplinary partnerships, upholds the highest ethical standards, and invests in the development of early-career scientists and engineers. Her vision, integrity, and commitment to excellence make Sarah Adams an exceptional innovator and a vital contributor to the nation's security enterprise.

Richard J. Kerr
Government 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 the 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

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

2024
Nathaniel Bundy
National Space Defense Center

2025
Kris M. Sonsteby
Executive Office of the President

Alexander Bramsen

Intelligence Analyst
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Intelligence Analyst Alexander Bramsen exemplifies the innovation, leadership, and mission impact central to the Richard J. Kerr Government Award.

As an Intelligence Analyst in the FBI Directorate of Intelligence, IA Bramsen overhauled the Bureau's enterprise-wide collection analysis, replacing a complex, months-long methodology with a redesigned, visually driven product that delivers clear, actionable insight to senior leaders. He developed standardized, repeatable processes, embedded them into scalable templates, and guided analysts in adopting the new approach, resulting in a three-fold increase in analytical productivity. This innovation proved especially critical during a presidential transition, providing new appointees with timely, polished, data-driven insights needed to understand and direct the organization's intelligence collection operations.

Beyond his technical contributions, IA Bramsen has demonstrated exceptional leadership as a trusted "player-coach." He has served as an acting supervisor, leads an FBI Community of Interest of more than 600 members, and represents the Bureau on an IC-wide task force focused on global competition. Whether training international partners, guiding analysts through new methodologies, or implementing collection requirements for FBI operations, IA Bramsen consistently models professional integrity, analytic rigor, and a commitment to developing others.

Through exemplary service and leadership, IA Bramsen has strengthened executive decision-making, elevated analytic tradecraft, and delivered lasting impact across the FBI's intelligence enterprise.

William O. Studeman
Military Award

Admiral Bill Studeman 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. Nacy 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 Northop Grumman Corporation, where he was vice president and deputy general manager of mission systems, in 2005.

RECENT RECIPIENTS

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

2024
LCDR Iris Kaku, USN
U.S. Navy, Pacific Fleet HQ

2025
TSgt John Coloso, USAF
National Security Agency

Major Alan Friedlander, USAF

Individual Mobilization Augmentee to the Commander
Defense Information Systems Agency

Major Alan Friedlander has demonstrated operational intelligence leadership at the highest levels of national security.

As a key member of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), Maj. Friedlander played a central role in delivering assured global communications for strategic government operations. Serving as a Site Lead for multiple high-pressure, high-visibility missions, he directed cross-functional teams to safeguard critical assets while ensuring uninterrupted command and control. As J7 Director of Force Development, Maj. Friedlander transformed his organization's Training Academy into a modern, mission-ready enterprise. Under his leadership, the Academy achieved a 98 percent Security+ pass rate, exceeding the national average by 17 percent. Maj. Friedlander is also deeply committed to the people behind the mission. Known for his steady judgment and high standards, he revitalized the Guard and Reserve hiring program, increasing applications by 200 percent and funding by 316 percent.

While assigned to Joint Staff J2, Maj. Friedlander's leadership during crisis conditions proved indispensable during Operations ALLIES REFUGE and ALLIES WELCOME, where he synchronized interagency partners to deliver the intelligence that enabled the historic airlift of more than 124,000 civilians and the safe retrograde of U.S. forces from Afghanistan.

Through sustained mentorship of service members across intelligence and cyber disciplines, he fostered a culture of readiness, accountability, and professional excellence. By pairing technical mastery with principled leadership and genuine investment in his people, Maj. Friedlander embodies the qualities of William O. Studeman, strengthening intelligence capability while building a resilient, mission-driven force in service of the nation.

2026 RECIPIENT

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+ Moving AI from Concept to Capability

+ Accelerating Emerging Tech Adoption

+ Deploying and Scaling AI for National Security Missions

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Discover the wide array of intelligence careers – cyber, policy, analysis, and more.

Insider Advice:
Gain actionable tips, knowledge, and strategies to succeed in the IC workplace.

Education Insights:
Hear straightforward advice on the skills needed for success.

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COMING SOON | THE ALL SOURCE PODCAST

INSA's new council-led series will focus on the intelligence and national security issues impacting today's mission environment. We're kicking off with, *From Action Plan to Mission Impact,* a limited-run series from our AI Subcommittee. Join us for candid conversations with leaders across government, industry, and academia, as we breakdown the AI Action Plan's impact on national security. Stay tuned!

INSA's **ALL SOURCE** PODCAST
Many Voices. One Mission.

THE 41ST
WILLIAM OLIVER BAKER
Award Dinner

RECOGNIZING

The Honorable
John C. "Chris" Inglis

INSA'S MARQUEE EVENT

Join 700+ intelligence and national security colleagues for an extraordinary INSA evening of camaraderie, connection, and celebration.

At the 41st William Oliver Baker Award Dinner, we will celebrate **The Hon. Chris Inglis,** former National Cyber Director and Deputy Director of the National Security Agency, for his distinguished service to our nation.

Saturday, May 30 | 6:00 - 10:00 PM | Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC

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