



# PIONEERS OF NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE

EDWARD C. MAHEN, JR.  
& CAROL A. STAUBACH





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SUPRA ET ULTRA

## FOREWORD

January 2020

The National Reconnaissance Pioneer Program recognizes and honors individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to national reconnaissance—pioneering contributions that were innovative, remarkable, and changed the direction and scope of the discipline and its practice. It is the highest honor in the field of national reconnaissance.

The Director of National Reconnaissance, Dr. Christopher Scolese, recognizes Mr. Edward Mahen and Ms. Carol Staubach, whose pioneering innovations have had a profound and lasting effect on NRO's national and tactical missions.

The Pioneer Recognition Ceremony formally inducts Mr. Mahen and Ms. Staubach, the NRO's Pioneer honorees, into Pioneer Hall. NRO's Pioneer Hall is a collection of commemorative medallions, one for each of NRO's Pioneers of National Reconnaissance. The medallions serve as enduring tributes to the pioneers' trailblazing contributions to the discipline of national reconnaissance. This booklet includes the words that appear on Mr. Mahen's and Ms. Staubach's medallions and briefly explains the nature of the Pioneers' specific contributions. Mr. Mahen's and Ms. Staubach's medallions now join the other 93 medallions that commemorate the contributions of Pioneers over the years. When you visit Pioneer Hall, I encourage you to review the citations on the medallions to gain a sense of the scope of the Pioneers' contributions and the lasting impact they had on the NRO and our nation's national security.

Dr. James Outzen

*Director, Center for the Study of National Reconnaissance*





EDWARD C. MAHEN, JR.  
**MEDALLION CITATION**

Mr. Mahen pioneered the development of a revolutionary new reconnaissance satellite and supporting infrastructure that significantly enhanced and strengthened national security over the past decade. This program enabled the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) to better counter its most critical threats and broadened the NRO's spatial, spectral, and temporal capabilities.

Period of Pioneering Contribution: 2004 – 2010

EDWARD C. MAHEN, JR.

Mr. Mahen's pioneering contribution dramatically extended the capabilities of the NRO satellite constellation in support of CIA and DoD missions. During the Pioneer Recognition Ceremony for Mr. Mahen's induction into the NRO's Pioneer Hall, he will be presented with a commemorative plaque citation, which states:

*Mr. Mahen pioneered the development of a revolutionary new reconnaissance satellite and supporting infrastructure that significantly enhanced and strengthened national security over the past decade. This program enabled the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) to better counter its most critical threats and broadened the NRO's spatial, spectral, and temporal capabilities.*

Mr. Mahen has served at the NRO in numerous capacities since 1998. Mr. Mahen began his NRO career under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act as a Senior Technical Advisor for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), assessing CIA's current and future needs and how the NRO could meet these requirements. Mr. Mahen supported the Advanced Systems and Technology Directorate as the Chief Technology Officer and a Program Manager, researching new technologies that led to the development of revolutionary new intelligence capabilities. Mr. Mahen is assigned presently to the Geospatial Intelligence Systems Acquisition Directorate, where he works on current and future satellite systems that support critical intelligence missions. Mr. Mahen was born in Richmond Heights, Missouri. He received a Bachelor of Science in physics and a Master of Science in electric engineering from the University of Missouri.

Career in National Reconnaissance: 1998 – Present



## CAROL A. STAUBACH MEDALLION CITATION

Ms. Carol Staubach pioneered the future of overhead reconnaissance by modernizing the NRO's SIGINT ground architecture, delivering unprecedented intelligence capabilities and the blueprint followed by others for the future NRO Enterprise. She overcame social, fiscal, international, and technical challenges changing the course of the NRO forever.

Period of Pioneering Contribution: 1997 – 2000

## CAROL A. STAUBACH

Ms. Staubach's pioneering contribution, which began in the late 1990's, remains the blue print for NRO's common integrated enterprise ground architecture. During the Pioneer Recognition Ceremony for Ms. Staubach's induction into the NRO's Pioneer Hall, her family will be presented with a commemorative plaque citation, which states:

*Ms. Carol Staubach pioneered the future of overhead reconnaissance by modernizing the NRO's SIGINT ground architecture, delivering unprecedented intelligence capabilities and the blueprint followed by others for the future NRO Enterprise. She overcame social, fiscal, international, and technical challenges changing the course of the NRO forever.*

Ms. Staubach's government service career began at the Central Intelligence Agency in 1970 and continued at the NRO from 1988 until her retirement from federal service in 2003. Ms. Staubach served in a number of leadership positions at the NRO in the Imagery Systems Acquisition and Operations (now GEOINT) and SIGINT Systems Acquisition and Operations Directorates. She later led hundreds of employees and oversaw numerous contracts as Director of the Imagery Systems Acquisition and Operations (now GEOINT) and the Advanced Systems and Technology Directorates. After her retirement, Ms. Staubach continued to support the Intelligence Community and aerospace agencies as an executive at Booz Allen Hamilton and as an Independent consultant. She also served for many years as an NRO Pioneer Selection Board member. Ms. Staubach was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. She received a Bachelor of Science in mathematics, physics and secondary education at the University of Pittsburgh and pursued graduate study in mathematics and engineering administration at the University of Pittsburgh and George Washington University. Ms. Staubach passed away on 3 June 2019.

Career in National Reconnaissance: 1988 – 2019

## PIONEERS OF NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE

### 2019

Carol A. Staubach

### 2018

Edward C. Mahen, Jr.

### 2017

Timothy J. Barnes

### 2016

Thomas R. Reinehr

### 2015

L. Porter Davis

### 2014

Thomas C. "Chris" Fitzsimmons

John. R Stavlo

### 2013

William G. Montgomery

Donald N. Simkins, Ph.D.

### 2012

Robert P. O'Donnell, Ph.D.

### 2011

Thomas A. Brackey

Joseph J. Eash III, Col, USAF (Ret)

Michael N. Parker, Ph.D.

John W. Shipley, Ph.D.

Richard C. Van Wagoner

### 2010

Robert H. Dumais

Jack A. Gibbs, Brig Gen, USAF (Ret)

Richard J. Randazzo, Col, USAF (Ret)

### 2009

James P. Campbell, Ph.D.

Lacy G. Cook

Michael F. Maguire

### 2008

Raymond E. Anderson, Col, USAF (Ret)

Howard G. Brotherton

Hilliard W. Paige, Sr.

### 2007

Paul G. Kaminski

Sun Yet Wong

### 2006

Ingard M. Clausen

Fred V. Hellrich

David L. Klinger, Ph.D.

Jane A. Wood

### 2005

Robert E. Eisenhower

Roger C. Marsh

Edward A. Miller, Ph.D.

Wayne L. Proffitt

### 2004

M. Sam Araki

Harvey Cohen, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Robert G. Kaemmerer

James W. McAnally

### 2003

Carl L. Ferdensi, Jr.

David Raspet, Col, USAF (Ret)

James W. Stoner, Ph.D.

Charles C. Tevis

### 2002

Vance D. Coffman, Ph.D.

Lee M. Hammarstrom

Robert L. Paulson, Col, USAF (Ret)

### 2001

Donald L. Cromer, Lt Gen, USAF (Ret)

A.J. (Tony) Iorillo

Vincent S. Rose

John Walton

### 2000

James G. Baker, Ph.D.

C. Lee Battle, Jr., Col, USAF (Ret)

John T. Bennett

John W. Browning, Col, USAF (Ret)

Jon H. Bryson, Col, USAF (Ret)

A. Roy Burks

Frank S. Buzard, Col, USAF (Ret)

Cornelius W. "Connie" Chambers

John O. Copley, Col, USAF (Ret)

Robert H. Crotser

John J. Crowley

James C. de Broekert

Gary S. Geyer, Col, USAF (Ret)

Thomas O. Haig, Col, USAF (Ret)

Frederick H. Kaufman

Robert J. Kohler

Ellis E. Lapin

Lloyd K. Lauderdale, Ph.D.

Richard S. Leghorn, Col, USAF (Ret)

Walter J. Levison

Howard O. Lorenzen

Frank J. Madden

James T. Mannen, Col, USAF (Ret)

Paul W. Mayhew, Ph.D.

Reid D. Mayo

James E. Morgan

Mark N. Morton

Alden V. Munson, Jr.

Charles L. Murphy, Col, USAF (Ret)

Frederic C.E. "Fritz" Oder, Col, USAF (Ret)

John Parangosky

Julius P. "Val" Peline, Ph.D.

Robert M. Powell

Edward H. Reese

Osmond J. "Ozzie" Ritland,

Major General, USAF (Ret)

Lee W. Roberts, Col, USAF (Ret)

Charles R. "Charlie" Roth

Robert W. "Rob" Roy, Col, USAF (Ret)

Charles P. Spoelhof

Forrest H. Stieg

Marvin S. Stone, Ph.D.

Don F. Tang

Albert D. "Bud" Wheelon, Ph.D.

Peter G. Wilhelm

Roy H. Worthington, Col, USAF (Ret)

Robert W. Yundt, Col, USAF (Ret)



*Pioneer Hall*  
*National Reconnaissance Office*  
*Chantilly, Virginia*



