



**Remarks by the Director of National Intelligence  
Mr. Dennis C. Blair**

**National Intelligence Community Awards Ceremony**

**ODNI Headquarters  
McLean, Virginia**

**January 22, 2010**

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**AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY**

*Video of this event is available online at [www.dni.gov/video](http://www.dni.gov/video).*

Good afternoon, everyone. This ceremony marks the fourth time I've been honored to be here with exceptional award recipients from the Intelligence Community, alongside their co-workers, their friends, and most importantly, their family members.

The previous three times, I spoke of these ceremonies as one of the joys of being the DNI.

Because to hear terrific stories about some of the great work done in the IC – and usually we can only scratch the surface of what our folks have achieved – ranks right up there at the top of all the things I get to do.

And it's especially nice to see friends and family get the chance to see their excellence rewarded – across all the many organizations within the Intelligence Community.

But today is different.

It's true that we do have our usual share of excellence being recognized.

- The accomplishments of individuals and teams;
- Hard work for short term projects that spanned an intense few months;
- Longer missions that lasted a year, two years, even four;
- And in the cases of three dedicated professionals, 35, 31, and 29 years – entire careers – in the service of this country:
  - Peter Makowsky,
  - Paul Mich,
  - and Colonel Russ Strosnider.

All those awards are a great pleasure and distinct honor to give.

But our final award today will also be a painful one to bestow. Because the very deserving recipient is not here in person.

Since her passing in May, First Lieutenant Roslyn Schulte has been warmly remembered at Temple Israel in her hometown of St. Louis, with family and friends in attendance.

The Air Force has paid tribute at her graveside with a 21-gun salute and flyover.

She's been memorialized at her home station of Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. And at the Air Force Academy, where she excelled in every area: leadership, academics, sports, and ethics.

And even in Afghanistan, the location of her death, there are tributes to her life:

- The Roslyn Schulte Memorial Humanitarian Mission that was created to assist the refugee children she helped in her spare time,
- And the Schulte School and Clinic, named in her honor at Camp Pawan.

In all these tributes, Lieutenant Schulte lives on.

I was particularly touched hearing about an organization started by her friends called "Running for Roz." It raises funds for her memorial at the Air Force Academy by garnering sponsorship for road races – up to and including marathons.

These friends wrote that in spite of the many articles stating what an incredible person Lieutenant Schulte was, they were lacking some important details – such as:

- She always looked beautiful, whether in a mouthguard or an evening gown,
- She was so strong that she could be intimidating, yet so personable that you were immediately put at ease,
- That she loved movies, and anything her father cooked on the grill,
- And that when she spoke, you listened; and if you didn't, your arm would be sore.

This afternoon, the Intelligence Community is honored with the opportunity to pay tribute to her memory.

The National Intelligence Medal for Valor, accepted today by Lieutenant Schulte's father Robert, her mother Susan, and her brother Todd, has only been awarded four times before in this organization's history.

Today it goes to an intelligence officer who – in three short months – made a far-reaching impact on how Intelligence was taught and shared with the Afghan National Army.

It goes to an Air Force officer who was wise beyond her 25 years, and respected as a leader by all those around her – from General to Airman – regardless of branch of the armed forces, regardless of nationality.

And for the first time, it goes to a woman – one who was genuine and compassionate toward her fellow service members and the people of Afghanistan – especially the children.

Lieutenant Schulte serves today as an emblem and example for the entire Intelligence Community.

Because military and civilian alike, you do not have the most glamorous, showy jobs in the armed forces, or in other government service.

It can be dangerous, and you may even pay the ultimate sacrifice.

We also felt the impact of that inherent risk when we lost members of our community in Khost, Afghanistan, just three weeks ago.

You receive no open thanks, and scant praise in a public forum.

In fact, the very mark of doing a good job ... is silence.

Yet that is somehow fitting for this community.

Because as the famed poet from Roslyn Schulte's hometown of St. Louis, Marianne Moore, once put it: "The deepest feeling always shows itself in silence; not in silence, but restraint."

So it is with appropriate restraint, and with deepest feeling ... that we now celebrate:

- 39 exceptional achievements,
- Three outstanding careers,
- And one extraordinary life.

Thank you.