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Description of document: **A brief description of the four Language Analysis Awards at National Security Agency (NSA), 2008**

Requested date: 03-June-2008

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Title of Document (U) CLA Awards

Source of document: National Security Agency  
Attn: FOIA/PA Office (DJP4)  
9800 Savage Road, Suite 6248  
Ft. George G. Meade, MD 20755-6248  
Fax: 443-479-3612

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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE  
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

FOIA Case: 56151A  
5 August 2008

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 3 June 2008 for “a copy of the list of recipients and topics thereof of the Language Analysis Awards at NSA for the last ten years.” On 2 July 2008, via telephone, you amended your request to “a brief description of the four Language Analysis Awards at NSA.” Your request has been assigned Case Number 56151. For purposes of this request and based on the information you provided in your letter, you are considered an “all other” requester. As such, you are allowed 2 hours of search and the duplication of 100 pages at no cost. There are no assessable fees for this request. Your request has been processed under the FOIA, and the documents you requested are enclosed. Certain information, however, has been deleted from the enclosures.

Subsection (b)(2) of the FOIA exempts from disclosure matters related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency. This exemption has been held to apply to matters that are “predominantly internal,” the release of which would “significantly risk circumvention of agency regulations or statutes.” Crooker v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, 670 F.2d 1051, 1074 (D.C. Cir. 1981). The internal URLs that have been protected meet the criteria for exemption (b)(2) protection as that statutory provision has been interpreted and applied by the Federal Judiciary.

In addition, this Agency is authorized by statute to protect certain information concerning its activities, as well as the names of its employees. Such information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption of the FOIA, which provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. The specific statute applicable in this case is Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 402 note). We have determined that such information exists in these records, and we have excised it accordingly.

Since these deletions may be construed as a partial denial of your request, you are hereby advised of this Agency's appeal procedures. Any person denied access to information may file an appeal to the NSA/CSS Freedom of Information Act Appeal Authority. The appeal must be postmarked no later than 60 calendar days from the date of the initial denial letter. The appeal shall be in writing addressed to the NSA/CSS FOIA Appeal Authority (DJP4), National Security Agency, 9800 Savage Road STE 6248, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6248. The appeal shall reference the initial denial of access and shall contain, in sufficient detail and particularity, the grounds upon which the requester believes release of the information is required. The NSA/CSS Appeal Authority will endeavor to respond to the appeal within 20 working days after receipt, absent any unusual circumstances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhea D. Siers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RHEA D. SIERS  
Deputy Associate Director for Policy

Encls:  
a/s

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(U) 2008 nominations are due on 5 May 2008

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08-05-2008, FOIA Case # 56151

**(U) CLA Awards**

(U) Each year, as part of its mission to promote excellence in the cryptologic language field, CLA presents four awards to recognize extraordinary, long-term accomplishment by civilian and military language analysts. Short-term accomplishments over the past 12-18 months are recognized by the Keystone Award. The CLA awards are named after four giants in the cryptologic language field and are given as follows:

- o Dr. Sydney Jaffe Award, established 1972, for long-term civilians and military; it became restricted to civilians in 1989, when the Rochefort Award was created for the military.
- o Captain Joseph J. Rochefort Award, established 1989, for long-term military personnel
- o Mr. Norman Wild Award, established 2003, for mid-career civilians
- o Colonel Alva B. Lasswell Award, established 2003, for mid-career military personnel

(U) Each year CLA also presents the Harry L. Rashbaum award for outstanding service to CLA and its mission of promoting excellence in the cryptologic language field. This is named after a distinguished language analyst and former CLA president. The winner is selected by the CLA President and President-Elect and receives a handsome plaque. Winners' names are recorded in perpetuity on the wall of OPS2B at NSA and on the NSA web. View past Rashbaum winners.

**(U) Who Is Eligible?**

(U) All civilian and military NSA and Service Cryptologic Element (SCE) language analysts are eligible. Language analysts from other agencies may be nominated but they will be judged on the basis of their cryptologic language accomplishments.

(U) The long-term awards are intended for those past-mid career but are not restricted to those about to retire.

(U) These awards are in no way intended to supplant established incentive and awards programs. They are awarded by CLA to highlight linguistic accomplishments. Recipients of any NSA/CSS or SCE awards are eligible for the CLA awards on the basis of the same performance.

**(U) What do Winners Receive?**

(U) Winners gain official recognition as extraordinary language analysts, placing them in the highest ranks of the cryptologic language field. CLA presents them with a handsome plaque to commemorate the occasion and their names are recorded in perpetuity on the wall of OPS2B at NSA and on the NSA web. Unfortunately, the names of certain field officers cannot be listed at either place.

**(U) Questions?**

(U) ~~(FOUO)~~ To ask a question or for advice in preparing a nomination, please contact [redacted] (CHAIR) or [redacted] (VICE CHAIR)

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(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

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[redacted]

## (U) Who Makes the Nominations?

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08-05-2008, FOIA Case # 56151

(U) Candidates may be nominated by any of the following:

- Any three working language analysts with personal knowledge of the nominee's work and who are not supervised by the nominee.
- Any supervisor at division level (or equivalent) or above. Persons in SCE organizations outside NSA may also be nominated at the operations officer level (or equivalent) or above.
- The Senior Language Authority

## (U) Preparing the Nomination

(U) Nominations may be in any format. They should be no more than about four pages long, and should not contain material classified above TS//SI//NF. If it is necessary to include material at a higher level, contact the chair of the Awards Board as soon as possible to make the necessary arrangements. For examples of nominations, click on the names of recent winners at

JAFFE and ROCHEFORT Winners  
WILD and LASSWELL Winners

(U) The nomination should demonstrate impact, impact, impact. It should include the candidate's name, grade or rank, organization, and length of service. Beyond that, the Awards Board looks for specific details that demonstrate the nominee's outstanding, cryptologic language accomplishments over time, that specify how he or she has contributed to the success of the cryptologic mission, and that make clear what sets him or her apart from peers. At this level of competition, it is not enough to be an outstanding solo performer; a winner must also be a force multiplier through mentoring, training, and leadership, almost always in a variety of areas. Candidates will be considered for the award which the Board considers most appropriate for that person, usually but not always the one suggested by the nomination.

(U) Nominees should show extraordinary accomplishments that advanced the cryptologic language mission in one or more of the following areas, or in other fields:

- Production, transcription, translation, analysis, or reporting from one or more languages
- Collection or target development that is language-based
- Management of language operations
- Language training, including curriculum or course development
- Development of improved equipment, systems, or procedures
- Language and linguistic research, lexicography, creation of working aids
- Computers and language; e.g., computational linguistics, computer processing, machine-assisted translation, etc
- Contributions to the morale, effectiveness, professional development, prestige, or advancement of language analysts

(U) Nominations must be submitted in softcopy and must be accompanied by a signed copy, which may be submitted on paper, by fax, or electronically (e.g., scanned document via email or PKI digital signature).

## (U) When and where are Nominations Due?

~~(U//FOUO)~~ **Nominations are due by COB on 5 May 2008.** Nominations from supervisors should be addressed to the chairman of the Awards Board through appropriate administrative channels. Nominations from peers should be sent directly to the chairman:

Suite 6124  
Ops2A Room 0964  
Org: S2C33  
Secure: 963-3140

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

(U) All nominations will be acknowledged. The winners will be announced by 10 June.