



**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

6 March 1968

Mr. John W. Macy, Jr.  
Executive Secretary  
Distinguished Civilian Service  
Awards Board  
U. S. Civil Service Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20415

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of 19 January inviting me to submit nominations for the 1968 President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service.

I welcome this opportunity to nominate Mr. Arthur C. Lundahl, Director of the National Photographic Interpretation Center in the Central Intelligence Agency. I believe that Mr. Lundahl's achievements in the development of photographic interpretation techniques as an instrument in the acquisition of intelligence have been an outstanding contribution to the defense of the United States and that of the Free World. His unusual leadership and competence in this highly technical field and his achievements in furthering the National Defense efforts make him a fitting representative of the many career officers who are serving in critical and vital positions in the Federal service.

The security considerations surrounding Mr. Lundahl's achievements limit my freedom to go into detail in the enclosed document, and I would appreciate the privilege of having one of our senior officers brief members of the Distinguished Civilian Service Awards Board on Mr. Lundahl's contributions.

Six copies of the nomination documents are enclosed.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Richard Helms  
Director

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Enclosures

ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL  
Biographic Data

Birth : 1 April 1915, Chicago, Illinois

Education : 1934-39 : University of Chicago, B.S., Geology  
1939-42 : University of Chicago, M.S., Geology  
1942 : University of Chicago, Ph.D. (Prelims)  
1948 : Eidgenoessische Technische Hochschule,  
Zurich, Switzerland, Photogrammetry

Employment : 1941-42 : University of Chicago, Instructor in  
Photogrammetry  
1942-46 : U.S. Navy, Commissioned Officer on  
active duty, Photographic Intelligence  
Specialist  
1946-53 : U.S. Navy Photographic Interpretation  
Center: Chief, Photogrammetry  
Division and Assistant Chief Engineer

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National Photographic Interpretation  
Center

CITATION

ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL

A distinguished pioneer in photographic interpretation for twenty-five years, he has been a vital force in enlarging the contribution of technical intelligence to the national security of the United States.

His [REDACTED] distinguished career with the Central Intelligence Agency has been marked by exceptional ability, imagination, drive and dedication. His professional competence, personality and warmth have made him an inspiring leader in the intelligence community and a key advisor to many high government officials.

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Summary of Achievements

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1. Developer of Photographic Interpretation as a Major Intelligence Activity. Since Mr. Lundahl entered the Central Intelligence Agency in [REDACTED] he has been responsible for the development and direction of the CIA photographic interpretation activity. In this role he is responsible for advice and guidance on all matters pertaining to the photographic exploitation capabilities of the United States. Under his leadership this activity has grown from a small group of photographic interpretation specialists to a highly sophisticated and technically advanced organization charged with national responsibilities.

Among Mr. Lundahl's most substantive contributions has been the development of the technical means to ensure maximum exploitation of an ever-increasing quantity of raw intelligence data derived from improved photography. Furthermore, his appreciation of national strategic problems enabled him to undertake innovations which have dramatically facilitated the process of extracting the highest priority intelligence information from large volumes of available photography.

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2. Scientist and Practitioner. Mr. Lundahl has played a leading role in the development of photographic interpretation from its infancy during World War II to a highly sophisticated science. His background in photogrammetry prepared him for his Navy career during World War II. He served for four years as a photographic interpretation specialist in the U. S. Navy. In 1946 he joined the staff of the U. S. Navy Photographic Interpretation Center as Chief of the Photogrammetry Division. Upon his transfer to CIA [REDACTED] he had risen to one of the top civilian positions in the U. S. Navy Photographic Interpretation Center. He has written many papers and articles, including Photographic Intelligence (the Naval Reserve Course Syllabus), Naval Photographic Interpretation, Applied Photography - Superservant of Man (a lecture given at the Cosmos Club, of which he is a member) and Photogeography and Photogeology: A Review and Prospectus, as well as more than one hundred classified publications and more than 250 lecture papers related to national security and USIB (United States Intelligence Board) intelligence subjects. Mr. Lundahl also holds two U. S. patents: one on Rotating Plates for Parallax Measurements and one for the ANZE Camera. Much of Mr. Lundahl's work in this field must be unknown and unrecognized by public practitioners of this science because of its highly classified nature.

### Additional Details

1. As the foremost expert in his field, Mr. Lundahl has been close to the highest levels of the United States Government and has been called upon to deliver critically important briefings to senior policy officials of the U. S. and Allied Governments in connection with the most urgent matters of national security.

2. In 1960 an intensive study of the Government's intelligence efforts resulted in the assignment of a national role to Mr. Lundahl's organization. The success of this effort has been due in large measure to Mr. Lundahl's ability to elicit the cooperation of all branches of the Government involved in the exploitation of photography for intelligence purposes. In developing this highly technical activity, he has successfully organized and directed a truly integrated and coordinated Governmental program.

3. The role of photographic interpretation during the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 is an excellent example of the contribution made by photographic interpretation in general and by Mr. Lundahl's organization in particular. Under his direction, photographic interpreters discovered the missile threat, and through him the word was flashed to higher authority. The accurate and rapid analysis of photography was of vital concern to the most senior policy officials of the Government then and it continues so today.

### Benefits

1. The value of photographic interpretation should not be measured in dollars but rather by its contribution of hard facts to the policy-making process, where but several years ago educated guesses had to suffice. The successful resolution of the Cuban missile crisis is the most dramatic and publicized example of the indispensable role of photographs and their analysis. Photographic interpretation not only substitutes information for speculation but affords the policy-maker a permanent record of irrefutable evidence to support his decisions.

2. Mr. Lundahl has consistently encouraged and developed cooperative ventures in research and development with other Government agencies, sharing benefits and achievements of his own program with others at considerable savings to the United States. He has successfully organized and directed a truly integrated and coordinated Governmental program which ensures that vital information is supplied rapidly to the Government's top policy advisers.

Awards

In 1962 Mr. Lundahl received the following: Letter of Commendation from the President and one of fourteen Presidential Silver Cuban Crisis Calendars. In 1963 he received the following honors: National Civil Service League Career Service Award, Presidential Unit Citation and Certificate of Commendation for Meritorious Service with the Central Intelligence Agency, Fifth Naval District Reserve Intelligence Annual Award for Outstanding Contribution to National Defense, the American Society of Photogrammetry's FMA Photo Interpretation Award, and the American Society of Photogrammetry's Honorary Membership Award which is the highest honor offered by the Society.

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