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# Tributes From Former NSA Directors

I appreciate the privilege of contributing my regard for Lt. Gen. Ralph J. Canine to your special issue of the Newsletter. I had been looking forward to a TV Historical Seminar with Ralph scheduled for next week—now, regrettably, fate has intervened.

My first association with the cryptologic family occurred as Commander, AFSS, very soon after the end of Gen. Canine's tour as DIRNSA. Though I never was able to serve him directly, I could not help but observe and be impressed with the foresight, wisdom, and dedication he had brought to the cryptologic community. One of my first acts was to resolve that a closer operational relationship for AFSS with NSA was useful. It was Gen. Canine's vision of close-knit cryptologic operations which inspired this resolution.

Later, between 1962 and 1965, though the third Director removed from his

tenure, I was in a position to be aware of the strong influence Ralph Canine had exerted on the Agency. Only a DIRNSA of his force and persuasion could have planned and completed the major task of relocating NSA to Fort Meade. I am proud that "on my watch" we were able to program the recently dedicated building for "S," which completed that last major relocation from the immediate Washington area.

I found the greatest inspiration for my own DIRNSASHIP in his relations with the NSA workforce. Though demanding of often difficult accomplishments and intolerant of shoddy results, he had an empathy for the NSA professional which, in my belief, has not been equaled. To me, he was a model in leading a team of pros to inspired endeavors.

I consider Ralph Canine the Father of the modern NSA, and I am honored to



General Canine with the NSA Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral Joseph B. Wenger, USN.

have followed him in serving the Agency whose facilities, concepts, and working relations he fashioned so well.

Mrs. Blake and I join with all the members of NSA in mourning the passing of our most noteworthy Director. To the members of his family we extend our deepest sympathy.

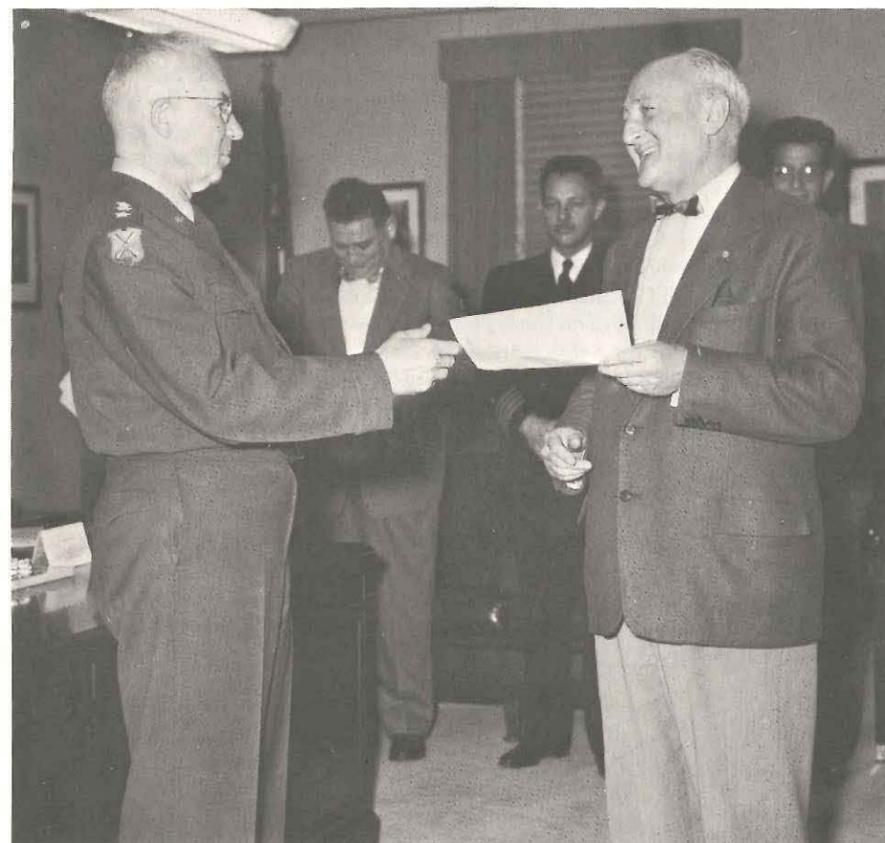
GORDON A. BLAKE  
Lieutenant General, USAF (Ret.)  
Director, NSA, 1962-65

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As one of many who were privileged to serve in Gen. Canine's command, I recall with deepest respect and esteem his unusual integrity, his strong character, and resourceful leadership, which set him apart as an able and effective commander. His efforts were justly rewarded by success in all endeavors. His valued friendship was of the very highest order. His loss brings deep sorrow and at the same time a feeling of pride and gratitude for the opportunity that was mine in serving on his staff and later as his associate.

I wish to share with Mrs. Canine and her family their sorrow at this time of loss, a loss which is felt most keenly by all their many friends.

LAWRENCE H. FROST  
Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.)  
Director, NSA, 1960-62



General Canine presented Mr. William F. Friedman, his special assistant, the promotion to the first top supergrade position in NSA at a special ceremony in 1954. Looking on were staff members Solomon Kullback, CAPT. Jack Holtwick, USN, and Arthur Levenson.



THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

# NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL EDITION

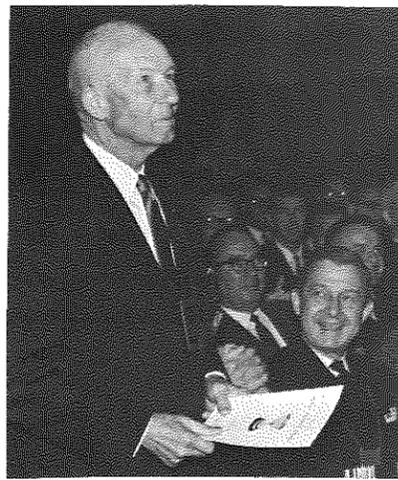
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND

March 1969

1895—1969



LT. GEN. RALPH J. CANINE, USA (RET.)  
Director, AFSA 1951-52; NSA 1952-56



General Canine at the 1967 Travis Trophy Awards Ceremony. He was a regular at this top cryptologic award event.

## Lieutenant General Ralph J. Canine, USA (Ret.)—1895–1969

Lieutenant General Ralph J. Canine, USA (Ret.) age 73, died March 8 in Walter Reed Army Hospital. He was the first Director—and in a sense the founder—of the National Security Agency.

As Director of the Armed Forces Security Agency (June 1951–October 1952) he played a key role in the formation and establishment of the National Security Agency, becoming DIRNSA and serving in that position until November 26, 1956. His dynamic and constructive leadership directed the new national

agency through its early formative years.

In his four-year tour as DIRNSA, General Canine instituted and supported many programs that have become integral parts of the Agency today. He was responsible for expanding the civilian workforce and for developing and strengthening the core of civilian professionals, and, to further this end, he instituted scholarship and fellowship programs for advanced study.

In the technical area, General Canine early supported the conversion from punched cards to the almost exclusive use of electronic computers and the most advanced electronic data-processing systems.

Although most of the operations of the young agency were still conducted in borrowed Army and Navy offices in 1956, the year General Canine left NSA, by the following year the largest elements of the Agency moved into the new operations building that General Canine had long planned and worked for—the first time that operations were conducted in the Agency's own facilities.

Born in Flora, Indiana, General Canine graduated from Northwestern University in 1916 and received his commission as second lieutenant in 1917. He was a veteran of both World Wars—serving in Europe during each.

During World War I, General Canine joined the American Expeditionary Forces in France and then served with the 7th Artillery Brigade headquarters.

In 1921, he was assigned to Purdue University as Assistant Professor of Military Science and Tactics, and several years later he held the same post at Ohio State University.

As a colonel early in World War II, General Canine served as execu-

tive officer of the 77th Division Artillery and chief of staff of the 12th Corps at Fort Jackson. He became a brigadier general in November 1944, and, simultaneously, led the 12th Corps as they fought at Normandy, across France and in the "Battle of the Bulge." This same unit was involved in the capture of Linz, Austria, and was active at the end of the war.

After World War II, he was assigned to Headquarters, Army Ground Forces; the Replacement and School Command at Fort Bragg; and as chief of staff of the 5th Corps Headquarters.

General Canine returned to Europe in 1947 as artillery commander of the 1st Infantry Division—later becoming commander of the entire 1st Division. He then became a major general and Director of Logistics for the European Command.

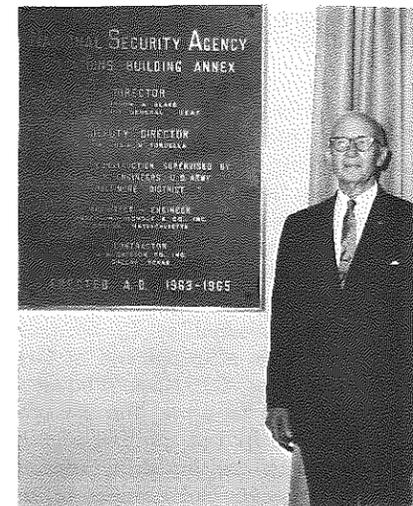
In September 1950, General Canine was appointed deputy assistant chief of staff for intelligence, at the Pentagon.

General Canine was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters. Among his decorations from foreign countries are the French Legion of Honor, the French Croix de Guerre with Palm, the Russian Medal for Valor, Order of Defense of the Fatherland, and from Luxembourg—the Commander Ducal Order Courrene de Chene.

Although General Canine had distinguished himself in combat and as a field commander, as well as the Director of NSA, hundreds of employees with the Agency today will remember him as a familiar figure in the working areas. He made a practice of visiting all areas and,

though operations were conducted at two separate locations, his presence was felt throughout the Agency. The many people whose lives he influenced and the operations building, which remains the heart of Agency operations today, provide an enduring tribute to General Ralph J. Canine.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Wiscomb; two sons, Lt. Col. Ralph J. Jr., of McLean, and Edwin A., of Crofton, who is an NSA personnel officer; and a sister, Margaret E. Canine, of Terre Haute, Ind.



General Canine dedicated the new NSA Headquarters Building on June 25, 1966.



NSA's first Director, Gen. Canine, reminisces with the current Director, Lt. Gen. Marshall S. Carter, USA, at the NSA TV Studio in the fall of 1968.

### Tribute to Gen. Canine From Gen. Carter

Gen. Canine holds a very special place in the history of the National Security Agency, for he is considered by all of us who followed him to be the founder of NSA and the dean of the cryptologic world. He was a powerful force in creating NSA, and he brought to the new agency the positive and dynamic direction that the task of unifying and combining separate cryptologic organizations required. He was the pioneer, pushing forward over new terrain, and that is never easy.

Gen. Canine left many a mark on the Agency and its people, and, thanks to his foresight and perseverance, he achieved the very difficult task of obtaining the facilities that remain the center of the NSA complex today. But his influence on the cryptologic community did not cease with his retirement. In the years since, Gen. Canine continued to give freely of his time and his counsel, and the Agency continued to benefit from the wisdom and executive ability that he brought to his task as the first Director. He continued to serve as our mentor and our friend, and we valued and deeply respected his wise counsel, his total integrity, his selfless dedication, and his great commitment to the cryptologic community.

Gen. Canine's exceptional personal traits and his enduring devotion to the success of our missions shall always remain an inspiration to those who follow.

All of the members of the cryptologic community mourn the loss of their first leader.

MARSHALL S. CARTER  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Director, NSA