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Vice Admiral Bobby R. Inman, USN

1977 - 1981

Vice Admiral Bobby R. Inman was born in Rhonesboro, Texas, on 4 April 1931. He received his BA degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1950. In November 1951 he entered the Naval Reserve and received his commission as an ensign in March of the following year.

After receiving his commission, he was assigned to USS *Valley Forge* and participated in operations in the Korean area of hostilities. From September 1953 to June 1955, he served in various assignments in the European area, including aide to the deputy commander in chief Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. Vice Admiral Inman held operational assignments on USS *Roanoke* and USS *Mullinix* and staff positions as the Chief of Naval Operations intelligence briefer, operations intelligence analyst at NSA, and assistant naval attaché, American embassy, Stockholm, Sweden.

Vice Admiral Inman also served as the director of Naval Intelligence; assistant chief of staff for Intelligence to the commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet; executive assistant and senior aide to the vice chief of Naval Operations; and fleet intelligence officer on the staff of commander, Seventh Fleet.

In 1976 he was named to the post of vice director, Plans, Operations and Support, Defense Intelligence Agency, the position he held before coming to NSA.

He became the Director of NSA in 1977. In this office, he acted quickly to take hold of the Agency's personnel system, and created a career development panel whose task was to identify the next generation of top NSA managers. Those identified were then rotated through a number of jobs to broaden their experience. In 1980 he named Ann Caracristi to be the first female deputy director of the Agency. Given his strong background in signals intelligence, Vice Admiral Inman participated actively in the planning process of many projects, including signals processing upgrades, remote collection programs, and overhead collection, as well as efforts to

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modernize the Agency's traditional ground-based collection posture. He obtained funds for a major upgrade to both collection and processing resources. Externally, he was able to win over President Carter, who entered office with a deep suspicion of the intelligence community. President Carter soon became an avid consumer of NSA's reporting.

Upon completion of his tour as NSA Director, Admiral Inman became deputy director of CIA, a position he resigned from in June 1982, just prior to his retirement from the Navy in July. He then became active in research and development in the electronics industry.

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