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## Rear Admiral Earl E. Stone, USN

1949 - 1951 AFSA

Rear Admiral Earl E. Stone was born in 1895 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1917. He saw escort duty during World War I. His postgraduate studies were in the fields of engineering and communications at the Navy Postgraduate School and at Harvard, where he earned a master's degree. During the 1920s and 1930s, he served in the Office of Director, Naval Communications, within the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. Alternate tours included assignments as commanding officer of various destroyers in the 1930s.

Rear Admiral Stone was executive officer of USS *California* during the attack on Pearl Harbor. After brief service as executive officer of USS *Salt Lake City* and in an antisubmarine warfare position in the Eastern Atlantic, he was named to assume the Navy's top cryptologic job in 1942. When relieved of this position in 1944, he was designated as the first commanding officer of USS *Wisconsin*.

He was later promoted to commodore and ordered to the staff of the commander-in-chief, Pacific Fleet. His promotion to rear admiral was effective on 8 January 1946, and at that time he was designated as director, Naval Communications. In 1949 he was named to head the new triservice cryptologic organization, the Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA).

As AFSA's first director, he took initial steps to carve out a distinct area of responsibility for the nascent organization, and laid the foundations that allowed the two distinct missions entrusted to the Agency, signals intelligence and information assurance, to develop. He also began efforts to identify a permanent home for the Agency, a move that culminated when AFSA's successor organization, NSA, moved to Fort Meade, Maryland.

During the Korean War he was assigned as commander, Cruiser Division, and saw action in the Korean theater.

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In 1955 Rear Admiral Stone was selected to be the superintendent, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, where he served until his retirement from active duty in 1957.

Rear Admiral Stone died 24 September 1989 in Carmel, California, at the age of 93.

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