April 17, 2014

# William Finnie Comments at GEOINT 2013

Dad was my hero. So today is very, very special to the entire Finnie family.

First, I want to thank four people that worked closely with Dad at DMA, were successors to him at DMA and whose efforts were instrumental in making this event a reality:

Two of them are here today, and I would like them to stand: AI Anderson and Larry Ayres.

Last year's Lundahl Award recipient, Red Gilliam, and Bill Riordan were unable to make the trip.

There is a second reason for my deep appreciation for these men.

Until a year ago, I didn't have a real understanding of what Dad did for his country. He did not ... and could not ... discuss his job with his family or others.

I did not know Dad was at Mission Control during the 1969 Moon landing until the summer of 1999, 30 years to the week later. I was helping him box some books and came across an official album with 24 large glossy photographs of the moon landing. I asked him how he got it. He said he was at Mission Control ... and then kept boxing books.

A year ago Al Anderson, Larry Ayres, Red Gilliam and I spent a day together being interviewed for the video you just saw. Talking to these men and watching their hour­ long interviews was truly a revelation.

One other point:on Tom Finnie Art Lundahl and Tom Finnie led parallel lives. They both graduated from college in 1939 and both were involved in aerial photography in the Pacific during World War II. But Art Lundahl was in the intelligence side of defense and Tom Finnie in the mapping & charting side. Their interactions were limited. I think it is wonderful for NGA that Art Lundahl and Tom Finnie, at long last, are united.

Two nights ago, I read *The Advent of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency,* the 2011 history of NGA. It is an amazing story of how military, technology, economic and political realities led to the merger of very different cultures.

Dad loved working with Lt.General Howard Penney and a dozen others to create DMA, so he would have appreciated the management challenges associated with the creation of NIMA and then of NGA. He would be delighted with all the brilliant, dedicated people who have created today's NGA technology. Dad was focused on identifying what solutions were needed to effectively address the biggest strategic challenges, and he would be totally impressed with NGA's many successes. And Dad would be delighted, at long last, to be closely associated with Art Lundahl.

Thank you so much!