



WIFLE FOUNDATION, INC.

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**Elizebeth Smith Friedman Intelligence Award of Excellence  
WIFLE Intelligence Award**

Dear Federal Executive:

WIFLE is proud to announce the establishment of the WIFLE Intelligence Award. The Elizebeth Smith Friedman Intelligence Award of Excellence will honor the achievements by intelligence professionals, individual or team, on behalf of federal law enforcement. The significant achievement(s) must have made a vital and unique contribution to the successful accomplishment of a Federal law enforcement mission.

In the mid-1920s through the 1930s, Elizebeth Smith Friedman, America's first federal law enforcement cryptanalyst, led the fight against organized crime groups who controlled liquor and narcotics smuggling. At the time, stopping this formidable enemy was the nation's highest law enforcement priority. In 1925, an era when women did not routinely work outside the home, and in fact had just won the right to vote, Elizebeth's agile mind became the government's secret weapon. Elizebeth used her expertise in code-breaking to "eavesdrop" on the criminals' communication. This actionable intelligence was then distributed among the three Treasury law enforcement agencies, Bureau of Prohibition, United States Coast Guard (USCG), and United States Custom Service; together, working with joint- task- force-like cooperation, these agencies then formulated operations to systematically seize the contraband shipments boat by boat. Over the course of her career, she also deciphered code for the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. With Elizebeth's prolific cryptanalysis production, the tide began to turn in favor of federal law enforcement and they began making large conspiracy cases across the country. In 1931, while at the USCG, Elizebeth created and implemented the nation's first congressionally funded federal law enforcement cryptologic unit where she trained and supervised a team of cryptanalysts. This team continued to break the back of organized crime, making federal cases involving narcotics, firearms trafficking, counterfeiting, and as the world inched toward a second world war, espionage.

Her lifetime work in federal law enforcement, in an era well before the concepts for joint task forces, all-source intelligence analysis, intelligence sharing, fusion centers and kingpin strategies were formally developed, should be considered the foundation for federal law enforcement joint task forces and fusion centers today.

It is in the spirit of cryptologic pioneer Elizebeth Smith Friedman that we honor her with the creation of this annual award.

Enclosed are the criteria for the award and a nomination cover sheet to be used to submit your nominations.

Sincerely,

Catherine W. Sanz  
President

Enclosures