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**U.S. Naval Observatory
Press Release**

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USNO SCIENTIST WINS AFCEA/U.S. NAVAL INSTITUTE COPERNICUS AWARD

Dr. Christopher Ekstrom, chief of the U.S. Naval Observatory's Advanced Clock Development Program, has been named as a recipient of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) / U.S. Naval Institute's prestigious Copernicus Award, which recognizes individual contributions to naval warfare in the disciplines of C4I, information systems, and information warfare. Dr. Ekstrom is being honored for his work in the development and implementation of the USNO's new Rubidium Atomic Frequency Fountain clocks, which will set new standards in defining the Naval Observatory's Master Clock system.

"I would like to congratulate Dr. Ekstrom on his selection as a Copernicus Award winner for his work on the development of our Rubidium Fountain clocks and the new Master Clock Facility", said CAPT Steven W. Warren, Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Observatory. "Although this award recognizes Chris' work individually, it also speaks volumes for the hard work and dedication of the entire clock and Facility development team."

"I am honored to be named as the recipient of this award," says Dr. Ekstrom. "However, our work is the result of a great team effort. For that I am indebted to my collaborators, Drs. Scott Crane, Steven Peil, and Thomas Swanson, whose dedication has resulted in the progress we've made toward an operational ensemble of atomic fountain devices."

The Copernicus Award was established in 1997 as a result of a discussion between LTG C. Norman Wood, USAF (RET), then-President and CEO of AFCEA International, and the late VADM Art Cebrowski, USN, who was the Navy N6 at that time. The name for the award came from the "Copernicus Architecture" that was used as the blueprint for the future C4I structure of the Navy. Recipients are selected based on their sustained superior performance in a C4I/IT-related job. The selections are made each year by Navy judges who review applications from the departments of the Navy and Coast Guard, including active duty and civilians. AFCEA presents the awards at their annual Western Conference held in San Diego each winter. This year's presentation ceremony will take place on February 11.

The U.S. Naval Institute and AFCEA are honored to recognize individuals who continue to demonstrate in operations that Copernicus remains relevant today, and the U.S. Naval Observatory is equally honored by the recognition of one of its own in Dr. Ekstrom and the work of his team.



Dr. Chris Ekstrom (left), chief of the U.S. Naval Observatory's Advanced Clock Development Program cuts the ceremonial cake during the dedication of the U.S. Naval Observatory's new Master Clock Facility. With him are (left to right) Mr. Warren Walls, Chief, Engineering Systems Division for USNO's Time Service Department, and Advanced Clock Development Program team members Drs. Scott Crane, Thomas Swanson, and Steven Peil.