



NEWS! From the NAVAL OBSERVATORY

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAPT Marc C. Eckardt, USN becomes 55th Superintendent, USNO

In a time-honored Change-of-Command ceremony, Captain Marc Eckardt, USN, assumed his duties as Superintendent, United States Naval Observatory (USNO) on 2015 July 24, relieving Captain Brian Connon, USN, who will assume new duties with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA).

Following the keynote speech by RDML Tim Gallaudet, USN (Commander, Navy Meteorology and Oceanography Command) the two Captains read their orders, and CAPT Eckardt officially relieved CAPT Connon at 11:30 a.m. EDT. CAPT Eckardt is the 55th individual to hold the title of USNO Superintendent.

CAPT Marc Eckardt is a native of Cambridge, Md. He received a bachelor of science in oceanography from the United States Naval Academy, a master's degree in physical oceanography and meteorology from the Naval Postgraduate School, and is also a graduate of the Joint Forces Staff College.

CAPT Eckardt's sea tours include USS *Hue City* (CG 66) where he qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer, and USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72), where he spent almost a year deployed as a Naval Oceanographer in support of Operations *Enduring Freedom*, *Southern Watch*, and *Iraqi Freedom*.

Ashore, CAPT Eckardt commanded Naval Ocean Processing Facility, Whidbey Island, Wash., where he was designated an Integrated Undersea Surveillance specialist and Information Dominance Corps Warfare Officer. Other shore tours include Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center, and METOC Staff Liaison for Naval Surface Forces and Naval Air Forces, then acting executive officer at the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Center, San Diego, Calif.

CAPT Eckardt also served as assistant oceanography community detailer, placement officer and community manager at Naval Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn., and as the senior meteorology and oceanography officer at United States Strategic Command, where he qualified as a Flight Meteorologist aboard the Airborne Command Post.

CAPT Eckardt was originally assigned to the staff of Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command at Stennis Space Center, Miss., as deputy Hydrographer of the Navy and assistant chief of staff for Strategy, Plans, Policy, and International Engagements (N5). He assumed the

role of Chief of Staff for Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command in August 2014.

His personal awards include Carrier Group Two Shiphandler of the Year award (1995) Commander, Naval Air Force Pacific's Navy and Marine Corps Association Leadership Award (2003), and various other personal and unit awards.



CAPT Brian Connon, USN (left) was relieved by CAPT Marc Eckardt on 24 July 2015