



NEWS! From the NAVAL OBSERVATORY

U.S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAPT Michael Riggins, USN becomes 56th Superintendent, USNO

In a time-honored Change-of-Command ceremony, Captain Michael Riggins, USN, assumed his duties as Superintendent, United States Naval Observatory (USNO) on 2017 August 30, relieving Captain Marc Eckardt, USN, who will assume new duties with OPNAV N2/N6E, Oceanographer of the Navy.

Following the keynote speech by RDML John Okon, USN (Commander, Navy Meteorology and Oceanography Command, Oceanographer and Navigator of the Navy) the two officers read their orders, and CAPT Riggins officially relieved CAPT Eckardt at 10:50 a.m. EDT. CAPT Riggins is the 56th individual to hold the title of USNO Superintendent.

Captain Michael Riggins is a native of Snyder, Texas and a 1994 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science.

His first assignment was as an assistant football coach and instructor at the Naval Academy Preparatory School, in Newport, Rhode Island, and in the spring of 2005 he attended the Surface Warfare Officers School (SWOS) in Newport.

As a Surface Warfare Officer, he completed tours aboard USS CARR (FFG 52) and USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75). He participated in two trans-Atlantic deployments and numerous exercises and operations, including Standing Naval Forces Mediterranean, INVITEX 97, LINKED SEAS, and MED SHARK 97. He completed his tour onboard the TRUMAN as a "Plank Owner" and then reported to the United States Naval Academy, serving as the Celestial Navigation Course Coordinator and Yard Patrol Officer in Charge of Midshipmen summer cruises.

Upon re-designation as a Cryptologic Officer in 2001, he attended the Naval Cryptologic Officer Basic Course (NCOBC) in Pensacola, Florida and following graduation was assigned to Naval Security Group Activity Fort Meade, Maryland, serving as a Real-Time Military Analysis Center Operations Watch Officer. Later, he was appointed Targeting Action Officer in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, providing support to U.S. Combatant Commanders and allied military forces.

From August 2004 to June 2006, he served as the Staff Cryptologic Resource Coordinator (CRC) for Commander, Amphibious Squadron Eight and the KEARSARGE Expeditionary Strike Group, leading

information warfare operations for a Persian Gulf deployment and a post deployment Sixth Fleet surge in support of the multi-national exercise, PHOENIX EXPRESS.

In July 2006, he transferred to the Naval War College earning a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies, and in the summer of 2007 he reported to United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida, assigned to the Special Operations Research Development and Acquisitions Center as the Deputy Program Manager for the Joint Threat Warning System.

In August 2010, he served on the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations Staff (OPNAV N2/N6) as the Decision Superiority Division's Chief of Staff, providing support for planning, resources, and sponsorship to the Director, Decision Superiority.

From April 2012 to June 2014, he served as the Executive Officer for Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Texas, leading over five hundred Sailors and civilians in support of fleet and National interests.

In September 2014, he reported to Fleet Cyber Command/Commander TENTH Fleet as the N5, ACoS for Plans and Policy and in July 2016 reported as the Deputy Superintendent, United States Naval Observatory.

CAPT Riggins is authorized to wear the Information Warfare Officer and Surface Warfare Officer pins. He has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and various service medals and ribbons.



CAPT Marc Eckardt, USN (left) was relieved by CAPT Michael Riggins on 30 August 2017