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SUBJ/FISCAL YEAR 2025 COPERNICUS AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT//

POC/FISCHETTI/CIV/AFCEA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION/-/TEL: (703) 631-6147
/EMAIL: EDFFOUNDATION(AT)AFCEA.ORG

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AMPN/REF A IS NAVADMIN 197/25, FISCAL YEAR 2025 COPERNICUS AWARD NOMINATION//

RMKS/1. The Chief of Naval Operations is pleased to congratulate the fiscal year 2025 Copernicus Award winners. The Copernicus Award recognizes individual contributions to Naval Warfare in the disciplines of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I), Information Systems or Information Warfare (IW). AFCEA International and the U.S. Naval Institute (USNI) have selected the following Copernicus Award winners for fiscal year 2025:

- a) LCDR Ryan M. Benito, USN, Carrier Strike Group TWO
- b) ITC Jeffrey D. Claypool, USN United States SEVENTH Fleet
- c) LT George T. Denove, USN, Cryptologic Warfare Activity 67
- d) LTJG Jadyne A. Dessalines, USN, Navy Cyber Defense Operations Command
- e) LtCol Karl E. Fisher, USMC, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
- f) Maj Malia E. Haselton, USMC, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division
- g) CTMCS Darrell R. Herschel, USN, Navy Information Operations Command Georgia
- h) CDR Thomas E. Hollinberger, USCG, Assistant Commandant & PEO for C5I (CG-C5I)
- i) LTJG Christopher M. Howard, USN, CYBER SQUADRON ONE
- j) LT James B. Hutchinson, USN, Special Operations Command South
- k) Sgt Matthew A. Kattich, USMC, Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28
- l) GySgt Quinn W. Larkin, USMC, USMC Support Company
- m) CWO Alan Lindo, USCG, 1790 Cyber Protection Team
- n) CWTCS Patrick J. Lucia, USN, Navy Information Operations Command Georgia
- o) Maj Adam L. McCoy, USMC, United States Strategic Command
- p) 1stLt Maximilian L. Mendez, USMC, Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38
- q) Mr. James M. Murphy, NAVY INFORMATION OPERATIONS COMMAND PENSACOLA
- r) Maj William T. Oblak, USMC, Expeditionary Warfare Training Group, Atlantic
- s) ITC Sean T. Petesch, USN, Tactical Operations Control Squadron ELEVEN
- t) LCDR Dean W. Porter, USN, FIFTH Fleet
- u) LT Vincent O. Potente, USN, USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG 53)
- v) LT Alex V. Psichas, USN, FIWCPAC/COMPACFLT
- w) Maj Victor G. Ray, USMC, 9th Communication Battalion

x) Maj Trevor O. Raymond, USMC, Information Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (IC4)
y) CWO4 Christopher L. Reynolds, USMC, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, G6/G39
z) Mr. Joshua D. Smak, U.S. Coast Guard Command, Control, Communication, Computers, Cyber, and Intelligence Service Center
aa) Chief Samuel V. Swymer, USN, Naval Special Warfare Development Group
ab) CWO3 Crystal F. Thomas, USN, Information Warfare Training Group Norfolk
ac) ITCS John R. Tiger, USN, Naval Special Warfare Development Group
ad) IT1 Cody A. Whitt, USCG, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter KIMBALL

2. All Copernicus Award winners will receive an invitation from AFCEA and USNI inviting them, their spouse/guest, and their Commanding Officer to attend an awards reception and presentation ceremony held at the AFCEA International/USNI WEST 2026 Conference in San Diego, California, at the San Diego Convention Center on 10 February 2026.

3. Released by Ms. Jennifer Edgin, Acting Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, OPNAV N2N6.//

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